

Ross Dowson archives Vancouver & B.C. correspondence – 1946

- 01_10 To Dear Comrades (Vancouver Branch), re: payment received on Vancouver quota of fund drive for the twice-monthly *Labor Challenge*; a few organizational questions; a donation from a CCF club; sketchy communications
- 01_15 Letter to Ellaline, re: heavy BC correspondence, journal coverage and Vancouver distributions and sales
- 02_16 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: late articles received; future deadlines; need signed articles
- 02_26 Letter to Van, re: his article arrived too late for the issue of *LC*
- 03_06 Letter to Tom, re: discussion on an European document; requesting information on the upcoming BC-CCF convention; tight finances make a BC trip impossible; sending him minutes of PC meeting
- 03_06C Letter to Ellen, re: no literature orders yet from BC
- 03_06B Unsigned letter to Comrade Faulkner from RD or Murray Dowson; explaining the Marxist method of characterizing a state by its economic base, not upon the policies of the group in power (i.e. the socialist nature of the USSR despite its Stalinist leadership)
- 03_08 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: sending SWP Party Builder bulletins to the BC literature agent
- 03_16 Letter to Van, re: does he wish his document on Perspectives of the Left Wing published?
- 03_16B Letter to Comrade Fergusson re his trip to the Prairies and a list of LC contacts he should visit
- 03_20 Letter to Tom, re: all Vancouver documents to be published; some organizational questions; Van's document to be the basis of a rebuttal by the NC; the need for a full unrestricted literary discussion; the need for a common policy at the BC CCF convention
- 03_22 Letter to Vancouver Comrades, re: our financial crisis; the need to ask members and friends for funds to avoid being forced to revert to a monthly journal
- 04_01 Letter to Paddy Stanton (Prince Rupert), re: his big donation; requesting that Angus move East to bolster young comrades in Toronto; can he come East to Toronto or Montreal
- 04_06 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: awaiting news of the citywide conference; CCF MP seems washed up by his statements in the House
- 04_06B Letter to Ellaline, re: the necessity to cover expenses when selling literature; the need for BC input on the emergency fund drive
- 04_19 Letter to (Paddy) Stanton, re: Stalinist publishers do not alter Marxist classics but offer slanted prefaces and footnotes; big gaps in the English edition of Lenin's complete works; Lenin quoted on how sycophants attempt to render Marxist writers useless icons
- 04_19B Letter to Comrade Fergusson, re: following his tour visiting socialists across Canada; document discussion important but Van and his critics absent from conference discussion
- 05_11B Letter to Ellaline, re: literature circulation; positive reports of BC
- 05_11 Letter to Tom (Bradley), re: agreement on perspectives but need discussion on upcoming CCF National convention
- 05_31 Letter to Tom, re: PC minutes; need to sharpen the struggle at the CCF convention; the tactic of seeking CCF affiliation to the F.I., BC to decide on some retaining CCF memberships
- 06_04 +Letter to Reg, sending some sensitive correspondence to BC
- 06_13 Letter to Comrade White (Britannia Beach), re: renewing contact; Paddy Stanton heading East
- 06_19 Letter to the Vancouver Branch Comrades, re: an emergency communications re the subscription drive for 1000 new readers; the BC quota of 300 very short to date; let's go!
- 06_26 Letter to Comrade White (Britannia Beach), re: sending books; Trotsky's analysis of the unions as a field of activities for revolutionaries; a local strike vote coming up
- 07_07 Letter to Tom (B.) re NC resolution on the FI; need to tighten up BC organization in advance of August convention; copy IWA caucus leaflet
- 07_17 Letter to Ellaline, re: letters from promising subscribers, journal bundles; the necessity of promoting *LC* rather than *The Militant*
- 07_17B Letter to Reg Bullock, re: turning down his request to extend the sub campaign

07_22 Letter to Lloyd (W.) re need for BC statement to CCF convention

08_08 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: Lateness of bulletin due to manpower problem in the centre (Toronto); a second bulletin to appear before the (RWP founding) convention; discussion on the D.C. (Van.) minutes; discussions with the dissident CP McKean group; the need for a common BC discussion before the CCF convention

08_10 Letter to Ellaline, re: good news on the BC sub drive; the need to double the journal bundle order; a (Fifth anniversary) Trotsky's assassination memorial meeting possible for August 21 ?

08_19 Letter to Comrade White (Britannia Beach), re: literature and sub sales; BC labor action; Paddy Stanton working in Toronto

08_16 Letter to Ellaline, sending issue of *Labor Challenge* announcing RWP founded; need mass distribution among CCFers

08_20 Letter to Lloyd, from Murray Dowson: need IWA delegate LC article, some suggestions as to how to criticize CCF policies; facing the possible expulsion of the Trade Union Committee from the CCF

08_24 Letter to Tom (Bradley), re: sending out extra copies of LC for factory distributions; possible intervention by Shachtmanites in BC, need good delegation from BC (for RWP convention)

08_28B Letter to F.G. Bonn, Richmond BC, re: a militant subscriber with industrial worker contacts invited to distribute *Labor Challenge* on a wider scale

08_28 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: paper delayed by late articles on CCF convention; Reg's fine job at Trade Union Conference where he publicly withdrew from the CCF; the question of BC's opposition to announcing the date and place of the RWP convention; the necessity of publicity on our break from the CCF; the need for a prompt reply from BC on publicizing the convention date and place

09_05 Letter to Tom (Bradley) re: the formation of an LC supporters club as the North Vancouver CCF considering defecting; Statement from Bullock, Whalen & Bradley of resignation from CCF; Sept. 14 telegram from Reg Bullock

09_13 Letter to Ellaline, re: good sub sales, factory distributions in BC and Ontario; the importance of sub renewals

09_14 Letter to Tom, re: a hot contact in Victoria; expect he and Lloyd coming East for (CCL and/or RWP?) convention

09_18 Letter to Comrade White (Britannia Beach), re: unable to make trip East to the convention because of their strike situation

10_08 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: suggestion to Lloyd (W.) re a BC mass meeting to announce foundation of RWP

10_10 Addn3pp Letter to Reg Bullock, re: our public withdrawal from the CCF in BC; work on the party constitution; the need for study classes and public forums; the W.P. in Canada and in the U.S.

10_22 Letter to Comrade Fergusson, re: the success of the (RWP founding) convention

10_26 "Letter to Vancouver branch on Campaign;" re: need to revise old financial campaign quotas and set new standards to meet new perspectives

10_28 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: our policies regarding appearing before the B.C. Election Committee, against property restrictions and the (first-past-the-post) electoral system and for lowering the voting age to 18

11_05 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: the branch meeting planned for Nov. 6; their first public forum and promising potential new members; new educational tools; recordings of Trotsky received

11_08 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: reporting a P.C. decision that the group around (Stan) Stanton publicly break from the LPP immediately

11_14 Letter to Ellaline, re: sub lists and raffles; the need for a financial campaign director, paper distributions at Stalinist functions require at least 5 comrades to avoid violence; need reports of BC meetings; the criteria for members-at-large

11_20 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: his discussions with a Stalinist unionist faction leader; Vancouver meeting report too late and flat; disagreements on the electoral commission approach; the Borland-Stanton split from the LPP (CP)

11_22	+Note to Reg re the Bradley affair
12_05	+Letter to Reg, re: the PC discussion on Comrade Bradley; his reproachable conduct while in Toronto; differences in trade union work, his slanders against (Paddy) Stanton
12_06	Letter to Comrade White (Britannia Beach), his excellent work in the strike situation

946-Vancouver

January 10 1946

87 King Street West
Room 5 Toronto 1

Dear Comrades;

I had intended to wait a while until receipt of your letter that was to follow the telegram but have ~~XX~~ decided to write anyway because of our long silence.

Henceforth you will not be neglected as you have been in the past month. We have been working under a terrible handicap in Toronto for the past month. George was unavoidably called away and won't be back till next week and other comrades were tied up getting our new headquarters into shape. This was a necessary time out so that we would be ready to cope with the twice monthly. We have finished on schedule and are ready to go to work.

There are several questions that I would like to take up with you and so will deal with them seriatim;

1--I received your telegram informing us of the \$50 towards the Vancouver quota. There are several points on the campaign which will be discussed in a circular letter next week but there are a few that could be taken up here. We are pleased to see that you have broken down the bundle order list for the Challenge. This was a necessary step to enable us to operate faster now that we have a twice monthly. Ellaline has informed us of all these changes. In her note she requests that we send a list of all the Vancouver subscribers and goes on to say that you are planning a special drive for funds and subs this coming month. Enclosed in the next mail will be a complete list of subscribers. Unfortunately they are not on sheets but on cards and it will be necessary to copy them out and return them. We haven't the staff to do the job. But what is this special campaign that you are intending to hold? We have just this week completed a national fund drive for ~~XX~~ \$1000. Vancouver accepted a quota of \$200 and to date has raised \$100. We have received little information as to how you conducted your campaign. We have on hand copies of the very fine appeal that you sent out and your collection sheets. No doubt a good proportion of the \$50 odd dollars that came in to us by mail was the result of your appeal. But was done by the group to raise funds--within the group? I have no break down of the source of Montreal or Toronto funds but I assure you that a goodly proportion of the pledge in both cases was raised internally. We have as yet in Canada no extensive periphery--the campaign was a step in the direction of consolidating one. The bulk of the quotas therefor had to be raised from our own comrades.. How much did we raise from internal and how much from external sources?

Does the situation in Vancouver permit us after just completing a national fund drive to commence with another? Of course the \$1000 will not last us for very long and we will have to make another drive but I am of the opinion that this can best be done on a national basis, through our press etc. We will have to have another drive later on this year. Perhaps you are thinking of setting up a group of persons who will make a monthly pledge to sustain the press. I understand the Toronto comrades intend to work on this idea on the basis of the support they got on the twice a month drive. The question of a national sub drive will be raised at the next P.C. meeting. We would appreciate a full report on the

campaign as soon as possible. I am enclosing a list of the funds that were entered under Vancouver on the scoreboard for your information. Noakes wrote us that he had recieved one of the collection sheets but was unable to work on it as he was in hospital.

2--- The collection sheets that you circulated were a fine idea. It would be valuable for the information of the comrades to know just what results were obtained from them. I notice that the sheets and the appeal give the name and address of a J. Beckwith, 33 East 22nd St. I am supposing that this is a pseudonym as I know of no comrade by this name. If this is the case it raises several problems. The following is invalidated if this is not so. It is very difficult to operate on the basis of anonymity. Who is this B.C. Labor Challenge Committee, by what authority does it operate and collect funds? These are questions that are automatically posed. I venture to suggest that the results reflect its "who is it". This also raises the question of who is identified in Vancouver with our press. Who handles the public distributions of Labor Challenge? Incidentally we must really start to push these. We must spread our ideas and publicize the fact that there is a tendency that keeps high and spotless the banner of revolutionary socialism. Are there some comrades who are openly known as Trotskyists because of their past who handle this work or do all the comrades participate openly?

3---A few weeks ago we got a contribution to the twice a month from the North Vancouver CCF. Shortly afterwards we received a letter from Comrade Fergusso informing us that on no account should we publish this fact in the press. I would like to know if this is the considered opinion of the Vancouver groups. We were pleased to hear that a CCF club rallied to the support of our press. This is an important development. In my opinion to have published this fact would give our press an official standing in the CCF and would have been a great step in giving us greater freedom of operation which of course is very necessary. It is becoming all the more necessary as the leaders of the CCF move to the right and run counter to the most elementary sympathies of the more advanced workers---the question of Indonesia, red baiting in Montreal by Lamoreux and Windsor by Brannagan and Davenport, their role in the ~~XXXX~~ Ford Strike, etc. It is becoming all the more necessary to publish the fact that there is an opposition within the CCF to these sell-outs. Our press must become the attractive force ~~XXX~~, the centre and voice of this opposition. We were very pleased to hear from Reg. that you have a number of new recruits and that the situation is clearing up for "getting along with our own work". What is the extent of our influence in the CCF now? How large and how powerful is our faction? What is the most important work that it is doing at present?

4---In a circular letter sent to all groups about 2 months ago it was requested that the group secretaries submit to the N.O. copies of the minutes of their meetings. Now that the situation in the trade union field has cleared up to a certain extent I hope that we will have your copies. These are invaluable to us as they give us a rounded picture of the nature of the group and its activities. I would appreciate it if you could also send copies of the last few meetings as I would like to draw up a national report.

5---While we have recieved no minutes Reg's activity notes have been very valuable. The last one we were able to use in conjunction with some leaflets to write up a trade union note on the shipyards. It must be obvious that it is difficult however for our editorial staff (1 or 2) to work up an

article from such scanty sources. It is necessary in order to give the twice monthly the character that we desire that the comrades in the various ~~XXXX~~ centres send in to the Editor material that is already at least sketched out. I mention this in respect particularly with the unemployed demonstration of Dec. 22 which we would have liked to feature but were unable because of sketchy information.

We understand that there was a Provincial Committee meeting on Dec. 22. Could we have notes or minutes on this?

This morning I shipped Ellaline 60 copies of the December issue of L.C. She informs us that there has been quite a bit of interest shown by the Stalinists and McKean group on the article on the Split. We have received no contributions for publication from any of that group. What are the latest developments? What were their reactions to the article?

I hope to be able to go over the activities of the CCF trade union group in the next few days and will drop you a line. The P.C. will be meeting shortly also to discuss CCF perspective. In the meantime I hope that you are able to deal with some of the most pertinent points raised in this letter.

Warmest Regards to ALL

(R.D.)

Jan 15 1946

(→)

Dear Ellaline;

We were glad to get your flurry of letters last week. I only hope that you went ~~not~~ not stiff a pace. We have followed out your instructions as to the re-devision of the bundle orders and hope that everything went off smoothly.

Today I have managed to get up to date and send you a complete list of Vancouver subscribers--you will ~~not~~ have to return this list. I am also enclosing a handfull of subscription blanks. You will notice that they are old ones. We have yet to get the new ones from the printer and intend to use these up in the meantime. The old sub. rate need only be scratched out and the address changed. You probably noticed the mistake on the sub blank in the Mid-January Labor Challenge--\$1.50 a year. It should of course be \$1.00

Many of these ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ subscriptions will be running out shortly as the mid Jan. issue was the 8th issue. But we plan to mail an extra 3 copies after the sub. expires(12 issues) to allow time to get renewals. This will give you till April to have wound up the renewals.

We plan to announce a national sub drive in a short while and will give you full details.

We recieved your letter enclosing the English papers. Yes--we receive it regularly and as you noticed reproduce the odd article as we did in the Mid January issue--Nationalisation of the Bank of England. At your Dec. 22 meeting the comrades criticized the editors ~~EM~~ for failure to cover the English dock-worker's strike. We have failed to deal with a great many important issues. Not through any desire not to do so but lack of forces to gather the material together and inability of L.C. to cover all issues. You will notice that the last issue had no West Coast material. -----a much more important omission for a Canadian paper. The reason for this was that there was no West Coast material available.

The comrades consider the November issue constituted an important tactical step--a departure from the existing perspective, to use the words of the report. Just what aspect of the November issue they refer to I am uncertain. Perhaps the review of the Cannon book and the papers gradual more open identification with Trotskyism. I hesitate to think what they might consider such a move as you suggest--the publication of the story of the French Stalinists going over to the 4th International and joining the French Trotskyist party. This is of course all tied up with the question of how revolutionaries conduct themselves in a reformist movement and the general perspective of the Canadian movement of the 4th International. I hope that we get some information, some material on this question from the B.C. comrades soon so as to enable us to deal with the ~~EM~~ problem fully.

I hope that you recieved the 60 copies of the December issue as you requested. We have a few more copies on hand if you have any use for them.

Have you a mailing list of you own of Trade unionists, CCFers, IPPers McKean men etc. We have adopted the practice of mailing 3 sample copies of L.C. to any contacts a comrade may desire or any mailing list we can obtain. You should be able to easily obtain a CCF list. In the third issue we enclose a copy of the letter that I am sending along.

What about mass distributions of the paper. Reg. reports that he tried to cover the unemployed demonstration. It is necessary in order to do an effective job to organize a group of comrades for this task. At least 5 comrades should be notified and be on hand to cope with such a demonstration. How did the group dispose of the 210 that went to you last week?

In order to put LABOR CHALLENGE on the map it is urgent that we have more distributions--factory distributions, cover political rallies and trade union meetings etc. This will give us all kinds of contacts. Can the group handle an extra thousand copies of this issue? If you could give us lots of time we could make an extra press run. It would cost you a cent a copy--shipping costs covered. We always have an extra few hundred that Toronto usually takes off our hands but if you could handle a thousand for mass distribution we would like to be notified in advance--by the 8th and 23rd of each month. Would you take this up with the comrades.

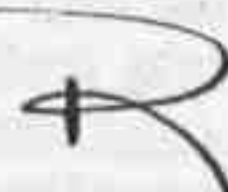
How are newsstand sales going? Kirk notified EKKX us that he had done a little work along this line. There are some excellent labor stands in Vancouver. The Montreal and Toronto comrades have put the paper on several stands with good results. The first issue they usually give to the dealer as an introduction free of charge. Thereafter they charge 3¢ a copy and take returns. On one stand alone in Toronto we sell 15 to 20 copies a month or now I should say a twice month. I am sure that Vancouver offers even more favourable opportunities to introduce our press to the workers.

Of hand I can think of nothing else that is necessary for us to take up at this time. I guess this is plenty, eh!

What is the nature of this paper committee. Who is the Literature agent now or are the post combined in one in you?

I hope to hear from you again shortly. Give all the comrades my warmest regards.

Revolutionary greetings



87 King St. West, Room 5,
Toronto, Ontario.
February 16, 1946.

Bullock
Dear Reg:

I received your letter and enclosed two articles on Tuesday, February 13. You will note that this was five days after our deadline for the Mid-February issue. But because of certain delays here beyond our control the paper was four days late in coming off the press. It was printed on the 14th and should have been printed on 10th.

This fact alone made it possible for us to use the item written by you on the last page to be made up. Because we had no prior word from you whether we would get a story on the Vancouver Hotel situation we went ahead on the 8th and wrote one up. By the time we received G.R.'s excellent article our story had already been set and that page made up. Therefore we were unable to use this story.

I do not know who G.R. is, I find it very hard to follow the activities and personalities in Vancouver because you ~~know~~ use initials, and I would like ~~like~~ you to thank this comrade for me and encourage him to continue writing. If I ~~knew~~ who this comrade was I would write him myself, because I believe that his report on the Vancouver Hotel action is very good, even better than the story we published.

The deadline for our paper is the 8th and 23rd of each month and most material received before those days can be published. But if an article on some important event such as G.R.'s article is being written and will arrive on or just before the deadline it would be a big help if we were notified in advance about it. This would save us trying to do it here and duplicating the work.

You will notice that your report of the meeting at which the Indian question was discussed was published as a letter. I merely used your initials on this. I suggest that you consider writing under your own name for the paper. It is important that the paper and its supporters and writers become known. An anonymous paper hampers the work of our best organizer. Most of the articles in the last few issues are signed by real people. I don't think that we have anything to lose by this. Even Eileen Tallman writes us in her own name.

Comradely yours,

February 26 1946

(-2)
Dear Comrade Van;

We were pleased to receive your fine article on the Vancouver Hotel seizure. It was just what the doctor ordered. We regret however that we were unable to publish it as we had just gone to press when it arrived.

We have been trying to wring some articles of that type from the Western comrades for sometime now and you can imagine our chagrin when we found ourselves unable to use the first one. I had written Reg sometime before asking him to get someone to work on the story but apparently the lapse between getting someone to do the job and delivering it to our office was too great. When we heard no word one of our comrades whipped up an article from newspaper clippings. Unfortunately our article suffered from its method of manufacture.

While there was no important difference in line, your work had a more on the spot character which is what we want. Inter-views with the leaders and rank and file participants of the action give the article lots of punch.

Of course the question of accuracy is also important. We are compelled to use the Bourgeois press if we fight it and it is more difficult to give events the correct interpretation from afar.

I don't doubt you come across other items of
 the local daily press. We hope
 that you can contribute more material of the
 same calibre and possibly urge other
 contributors to do so.

Warmest Regards

Warmest Regards
Russ Dawson

March 6 1946

Dear Tom; *(2) Edley*

We were very glad to get your prompt and agreeable reply yesterday. I won't add anything to your remarks on the European document and its relation to the perspective of the Canadian group for by now you will have recieved a copy of the first internal bulletin which deals with the question at some length.

We are looking forward to this discussion, especially as it develops in the B.C. group where there seems to be greater variance of opinion. The first bulletin should now be in Ellaline's hands--and no doubt preparations are afoot to hold the necessary city-wide meetings that will enable us to get the most out of the discussions. We anticipate some contributions for the next issue from the Vancouver comrades.

The discussion is opening up at a very favourable time--just as the CCF Provincial Convention is getting under way. At the Convention the comrades will be able to evaluate in action their analysis of the West Coast CCF. You state that you expect large scale clashes on policy in the Convention. We have not yet heard what resolutions our comrades are proposing. What will the nature of these clashes be. Are our comrades intending to carry out a struggle for positions or do you expect that there will be moves against us or the paper? Would you send a detailed report as soon as possible on what is likely to develop.

We would also like a copy of ~~your~~ ^{the} resolution that you presented to the Labor Council. As you must realize we have only a sketchy idea what is going on there. I am asking for reports for it is absolutely impossible for us to ~~XXXXXX~~ get out to the West Coast unless a miracle happens. We are aware of ~~the~~ the necessity of such close contact and the great value that such a trip would have but the big deterrent is our present financial condition. You will note in the last P.C. minutes a motion that a budget be drawn up for the next meeting. We are at present close to ~~scrapping~~ the bottom. The Montreal trip that proved so fruitful was only possible because the Montreal comrades financed it. None of the pledges given at the Montreal Conference have been maintained let alone stepped up. Vancouver averages only \$20 a month and P.R. less although it would appear that we have greater numbers around us in Vancouver than anywhere else. Yet a trip out there would cost well over 125 bucks--more than what Vancouver has kicked in since last August to sustain the paper, let alone carry on organizational work. It appears that we will be compelled to give any aid we can via the mail. I hope that Dan can get up there for a while prior to the Convention.

On February 26 I airmailed a letter to Harry in care of Reg. I see that Harry also side-stepped you comrades as he did the P.R. comrades. It is quite possible that Reg never had a chance to see him. We urged him to come early and stay ~~in~~ ~~the~~

in Toronto for a discussion prior to the session. He has never responded to our mail and it is now Thursday, a few days before parliament opens. It seems that there is no question now of where he stands. Paddy claims that it is the new-found dough that Harry is afraid to jeopardize. Harry appears to lack any real moral fibre but I think decay has also been determined by the lack of any left wing base in the CCF. If he sticks his head out against the bureaucrats he is left high and dry as far as CCF support is concerned. We hope to be able to make a trip to Ottawa to settle the score with him soon.

Is Reg's statement about Van refusing to write for L.C. as long as it holds to its present policy of recent origin? I understand that it was he who wrote the hot ~~hot~~ seizure article. I dropped him a note urging him to contribute more material. What are his objections to the present policy. In the minutes that Reg sent on Jan 10th his criticism of the situation appears to be organizational. After glancing through these minutes again I am sorry that we did not deal with some of the questions discussed sooner. However now that they have been left so long I think we can afford to leave them a while longer. The coming discussion on CCF Perspectives will raise them again and in a much better light--in the light of politics and their responsibilities.

Your note on Van's attempts to prove Engles a supporter of the diety is most interesting. This is no doubt the basis of his support of Bryant who represents this tendency in ^{our movement} that wants to revise Marxism--the Eastmans, Hooks, Burnhams, Shachtmans and now Goldmans and Morrows. I understand that the Bryant case is still hanging fire but the way to fight this guy now is to open up on any attempts to throw overboard Marxist principles. You might open up with discussions on the controversy that rages in the American movement and on the continent....exposing the role of these revisionists. Roberts would be of great help in this job. You could perhaps arrange a meeting for him along this line.

On the Windsor situation...Cameron according to Maurice is a worthless element. He is inactive in the CCF and only gives lip service to any fight that M carries on. M informs me that he has a few people who are personal friends around him but they are even of poorer stuff. He never subscribed to L.C. although we sent him sample copies all along until this month. He sent in a sub blank with this note: "from a militant democratic socialist"--democratic in parenthesis. Which means "I'm subscribing but don't think I agree with you bureaucratic, Bolshevikism equals Stalinism, centralist bastards". M asked him for a sub some time ago and he appeared little interested. None of his so-called group subscribe. If you are in contact with him you might enquire what he thinks of the paper.

I have checked through the subscribers list and find that neither Sullivan or Stewart or Jasper are subscribers. This Alex McCormack appears to be a first rate revolutionist. He has purchased all of our literature, speaks highly of the press, obtains many subs and has a great deal of respect for you and Lloyd. I hope you can turn up a few more like him.

Th minutes of the last P.C. meeting, the Alexander statement and the internal bulletin are now in your hands so we will take up the remaining points from your next letter. I am particularly interested to know of you opinion of the P.C adopted Perspectives of the Canadian Section.

Warmest Regards

P.S. ~~XXXXXX~~ could you drop a copy of your Council Resolution and resolutions that the group intends to fight on at the Convention in the next mail.

87 King St. W., Room 5,
Toronto 1, Ontario,
March 6, 1946.

Dear Comrade Faulkner:

Your letter of February 24 was received *with Murray* thanks. The three subscriptions you enclosed have been started with the March issue of Labor Challenge. The balance of the five dollar postal note you enclosed has been placed to your credit for the bundle of Labor Challenge you receive.

I have noted your request for back numbers for the purpose of promoting the paper among the workers of Vancouver. I am sending you under separate cover a bundle of papers about a month old for this purpose. We will continue to send papers to you for this purpose from time to time.

In your attached note re the Book Review of Trotsky's "The Revolution Betrayed" you seem to see a contradiction between Trotsky's analysis of the class nature of the Soviet Union and the stranglehold of the Stalinist bureaucracy. While the best method for you to clarify this question would be to read this book, I will attempt to answer your question in a few words. This question is also dealt with at some length in Trotsky's last book "In Defense of Marxism."

Marxists have always characterized the state from the economic base upon which it rests and not from the aims or policies of ^{the} group in power. For example during World War II we characterized that war as imperialist because of the capitalist economy of both the Axis and United Nations. We did so in spite of the fact that ~~the~~ on one side there was a brutal fascist dictatorship in power and on the other side the majority of the United Nations had some form of capitalist

democracy. Fascism, Bonapartism, constitutional monarchy, capitalist democracy, republic, etc. are various forms of the rule of the capitalist class. The state form of capitalist rule--the political superstructure--whatever form it takes is based upon the position of the capitalist class in the social system of economy. The determining factor for us is the capitalist economy.

Therefore in spite of the degeneration of the Soviet Union and the growth of the parasitic Stalinist bureaucracy as long as the basic economic gains of the October Revolution remain it will be considered as a workers state by all Marxists, although in a degenerated form.

The fact that Stalinism paves the way for capitalist restoration in the Soviet Union by the destruction of workers democracy, restoration of the old officer caste system in the Red Army, sabotage of production by draining off a large share of the national wealth to satisfy its own privileges has not yet meant the destruction of the basic economic gains of the October Revolution. The nationalization of the land, means of production, transport and exchange plus the monopoly of foreign trade still remain although they are threatened by the continued power of the usurping bureaucrats.

I hope that these brief words clear up your question on this article. If not, don't hesitate to write again.

Comradely yours,

March 6 1946

(-?)

Dear Ellen;

By now you have received the 25 copies of the first internal bulletin. I am sorry that I did not write you before but it completely slipped my mind. I am not sure how many comrades we have in Vancouver but I figured that we have at least twenty-five. Every comrade must have a copy in order to study it thoroughly and to effectively participate in the general discussion meetings that will have to be called. If we have more comrades than that drop me a airmail letter and I will forward them immediately.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

You will notice that they are marked on the cover as selling at .10 a copy. Will you collect that amount which scarcely covers the cost and forward it. I do not suppose that it is necessary to bring to the comrades attention that this document is for members only and that its falling into other persons hands might cause us a great deal of difficulty.

Sometime ago I sent you many mimeographed copies of our complete literature list. What have we done with it? The other groups have given these out to comrades and have taken orders and sent them in to us. I don't know just how you make out for books via Seattle but no doubt there is a large market for our literature outside of any demand that Seattle can handle. We are willing to handle any order that you might send in on a sixty day basis although personally I think a more satisfactory way is to take comrades orders, amalgamate them and send them in ~~regularly~~. I notice that the CCF Literature department is handling Mission to Moscow. This permits us to demand that they carry some of our material. I understood that we have a comrade who works in this department. We should get after him, too. I am sure that we could sell many copies of the Trial Pamphlets.

How do you make out in your free mailings? Have we been able to handle any distributions? In passing, I notice that the B.C. CCF NEWS has quite a lively letters to the editor column. Did the comrades ever consider ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ utilizing it more fully for our ideas. I notice that there have been lots of opportunities.

Give my regards to all the comrades

(R.D.?)

March 8 1946

(Bullock)

Dear Reg:

There are a couple of questions that I would like you to bring to the attention of the group. I have just sent off in the mail some copies of the American comrades internal bulletin. As you no doubt are familiar the American comrades also publish a Party Builder. These documents can be an invaluable aid to our movement. To date the distribution has been of a haphazard nature in Canada. In order to regularize their distribution we would like the groups to raise the question and ascertain just how many copies of the Internal Bulletin and Party Builder they can handle. The cost will be .25 cents a copy and so that the group does not go in the red the person in charge should have a fairly exact idea of how many comrades want copies.

In order to avoid confusion it is probably best that the literature agent should handle the bulletins.

Some time ago a complete list of books available was sent out to the branches. Literature sales in the group have been up until now ridiculously low. Have all the comrades received copies of the list.

One of the bulletins included is entitled "The New Imperialist Peace and the Building of the Parties of the 4th International..... February 1946. The National Committee has endorsed the general line of this thesis, approved by the European Secretariat of the 4th International.

In view of this it would be extremely valuable for the group to devote some time to a discussion of this document.

Would you please bring the above to the attention of the membership.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to see Roger Bray so that we could go to work on the article for possibly April 1 issue. Did Harry escape you? I understand he studiously evaded you comrades as he did the P.R. comrades. We are very anxious to hear about the discussion on the Internal Bulletin.

Warmest greetings



March 16 1946

Dear Comrade Van;

In yesterday's mail we recieved a copy of your document entitled Perspectives of the Left Wing. It was pinned across the top; For Consideration of the National Committee, and marked No.2.

Since we have opened a period of ~~XXXXXXXX~~ discussion in the organization and intend to publish the second bulletin within the next week or so I would like to know if you had intended that this material be published. The first document will be included in the next bulletin.

We will also include the second contribution ~~unless you~~ ~~agrees to~~ otherwise.

Comradely

Ross Dawson

March 16 1946

Dear Comrade Fergusson;

We are glad to hear that you are going to make a trip into the Prairies. Ellaline informed me of your trip over a week ago and I sent her a short list via airmail of the key persons in the West whom we would appreciate your visiting. It appears that you have not received the list so I am duplicating it and enlarging it with the names of other persons whom we know nothing of except that they are subscribers to Labor Challenge.

Nos. 1 and 2 are old comrades and should be contacted first before covering addresses near them as they probably sent in the subs. Nos. 17 and 19 have been in touch with us for some time and I believe both contributed to the twice monthly. No. 9 has bought quite a quantity of literature and I think was once in contact with our Ottawa comrades. No. 5 ordered many copies of the early issues of L.C. which I imagined he distributed in the district. We have heard nothing from him for some time now. The remainder I know nothing of except that they subscribe to our press.

Most of these towns I am unable to locate on the map but no doubt the key people will lead you to most of the others.

We have recently written to several of these comrades suggesting regularized contributions to Labor Challenge. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Our movement is entering into a period of serious financial crisis and it would be invaluable if you would speak to these comrades along this line. I do not doubt for a moment that in most cases you will meet with a warm response and will be able to obtain a sizeable monthly pledge that can be sent into the national office. At present this is probably the most important contribution that these comrades can make to the movement. Anything that you can do to follow up our letters and obtain a more regularized financial support will be appreciated.

We would also appreciate any report you could give on these persons that unknown to us. We have received your contribution to the present internal discussion on perspectives of the Canadian section of the 4th International. We will include it in the next internal bulletin.

Give our regards to the comrades whom you will see.

Revolutionary greetings



March 20 1946

Dear Tom; (Bradley?)

We have received your letters of March 11, 15; the copy of the CCF Convention Resolutions and the contributions of Fergusson, Van, and yourself to the discussion on perspectives.

The latter three documents will be included in the next internal bulletin which should be off towards the end of next week. Your contribution which we took the liberty of re-christening "The Necessity for a Revolutionary Party," fits into the next bulletin very well....a fine antidote to Van's stuff. It is very satisfying to note that we have independently arrived at the same conclusions. Your document will be a great aid in the clarification of our comrades in the need. for an independent revolutionary party.

There have been several questions raised in the material that has come in from the West Coast in the past week or so. For convenience I will take them up point by point.

1---The minutes of the Provincial Committee of March 9 report that there was a discussion there on the minutes of the Political Committee. The P.C. minutes include motions that are not yet decisions of the National Committee. These minutes are sent out for the consideration of the members of the National Committee. To raise questions that are still under consideration on the National Committee at the provincial committee not only tends to undermine the authority of the N.C. but also the centralisation of the movement. I can foresee occasions when there will be questions discussed by the N. C. which might best remain undivulged to the entire membership. While information contained in the minutes will often prove useful to you in your work on the Committee I am of the opinion that reports to the Provincial Committee should be only of matters that have the approval of the National Committee. The Alexander affair is a case in point. No harm done but we would have preferred to have had your opinion prior to the releasing of this information.

2---We have received two documents from Van, one for the special attention of the N.C. They are quite a revelation and a complete confirmation of your opinions. We were aware that the Provincial Committee document was not the considered opinion of the group and I hope you find the manner of its introduction in the first internal bulletin satisfactory. In the next internal bulletin we don't intend to deal with this document in detail except for one or two points. We intend to make Van's articles the whipping post. There can be little doubt of him having connections with the Morrow faction in the States. His position is fundamentally the same as Morrow's but only slightly more ludicrous. (The pre-October Soviets and the CCF). Regardless of the lack of influence that Van may have in our movement we must take advantage of this opportunity to thoroughly educate our comrades in Marxist principles, the need for an independent revolutionary party, its role, its program, etc.

It would be a great mistake for P.C. members to make any moves that could be interpreted as attempts to stifle democratic discussion or any faction that Van may attempt to group around

himself. We must give them every consideration and all kinds of latitude. We can well afford it and it provides a fine educational opportunity which will do much to clear the general confusion. This discussion is of more than local importance. Van represents a tendency that exists in the International. Any moves on our part that could be interpreted as bureaucratic will have international repercussions. Of course we must continue to be searching and ruthless in our political relations with him... and destroy any support he may build up.

3---We were glad to hear that a meeting of the entire group has been arranged for March 31. It will be necessary to hold two or three more before the CCF Convention. It would be a mistake to arrive at any general decision at this meeting. In your March 6 letter you remark that ``3 of you went into the CCF in the early war period after all the deserters had left the scene—now we will see what comes out of it.” We can wait a while longer in order to plumb the situation to its depths. It is quite possible that you have already done so in the opinion of some comrades. However it is quite obvious from the resolutions presented for the CCF Convention that there is a great lack of clarity even in our own ranks. If the CCF bureaucracy will permit us we should prolong our discussion and really consolidate our ranks politically. It is particularly important that we hold further meetings to clarify our perspective and reach some elementary basis of agreement before the CCF Convention. It will be remarkable if Van is unable to find support in the group for his position after so many years of isolation and stagnation that our movement has suffered from. This discussion doesn’t involve just the clarification of our perspective but Van attacks every concept of our movement.

4—The CCF Convention Bulletin has arrived. We notice that you comrades are running almost a full slate. Your struggle for control will bring the entire national leadership out to the coast and promote an extremely sharp fight. Among the resolutions from our clubs many of which are centrist conciliatory and false there are some very good ones. There are sufficient good ones to cut the convention into sharp camps. It is unfortunate that we were unable to discuss the resolutions together and that the P.C. failed to clarify our position with model resolutions and internal discussion on the most important questions. I intend to take up the question of these resolutions with the P.C. and write a letter on the question to the Provincial Committee. I would strongly urge that a city wide meeting be called to discuss our political policy at the coming convention.

5—I was quite interested to hear what you had to say concerning the first internal bulletin and the P.C. document. While the objections that you raise to sections 5 and 6 are of secondary importance there are a few remarks that might be made. I think it more correct to say that Canadian labor has followed more closely the development of American labor than British. This is particularly true in the more recent period as the Canadian economy became more integrated into the American and in greater conflict with the British. While it is true that British labor has developed along parliamentary channels to a great extent since the turn of the century, this is surely not true of Canadian labor—Winnipeg, Estevan, Anyox, Oshawa, Kirkland Lake, Windsor etc. Incidentally B.C. trade union figures do not give a true comparison to U.S. figures. B.C. may be 40% and the U.S. 25% but the Canadian average is more like 16%. Is the Canadian working class inclined more to reformism than the American? I think that the document quite correctly

points out that Roosevelt and the New Deal were instrumental in heading off the development of the American labor party.

We might discuss this question more thoroughly at some other time.

In tomorrow's or the next day's mail Reg will receive a financial statement which will deal with the present crisis we find ourselves in. In the last couple of days the situation looks considerably brighter and there is now a slim possibility that one of us may be able to get out there to help you out. We sincerely hope so. We were very glad to hear that Dan* will be with you. He should be of great aid in handling the Van situation.

What's the general line up now among our own comrades?

All the best

(*likely Dan Roberts, Seattle SWP –ed.)

RDW - Jan 08 1946
March 22nd, 1946.

Dear Comrades:

Enclosed you will find a document on the financial crisis which now faces us. It deals at great length with our present position and suggests solutions to our problem.

The \$175.85 deficit based on the newly proposed format for L.C. can be easily taken up by the comrades and enable us to continue publication of the twice monthly and expand our other activities. We are sure that all comrades realize the importance of continuing the twice monthly and will rally to its aid.

The Vancouver comrades can take up a substantial amount of the anticipated deficit.

Substantial sums could be realized by a canvass of our numerous friends and sympathizers in the Vancouver area. These persons should be approached for a monthly pledge and comrades struck off to carry out this very necessary work. Socials would also provide a new source of income besides bringing sympathizers closer to us.

However, these are only subsidiary methods of raising the necessary funds. The bulk of the anticipated deficit must be taken up by our own comrades as was proven in the twice monthly campaign. There are no short cuts or easy routes to sustaining our press and building the movement. Labor Challenge can become a monthly or perhaps only a mimeographed sheet. The decision rests with us.

To be forced to return to a monthly would be a serious blow to our activities, particularly in the West Coast. Every attempt must be made to maintain the twice monthly so it can play an effective role in the rapidly developing B.C. situation.

We are confident that all comrades will rally to the support of the twice monthly.

Let us hear from you immediately.

Comradely yours,

April 1 1946

(Stanton, Vancouver)

Dear Paddy;

We received your rapid response to the emergency call with a great feeling of satisfaction. If we get the same reaction from other comrades why we will be able as far as funds are concerned to publish a daily. I hope that the P.R. branch will be able to keep up with you. So far, we have yet to hear from Vancouver. They are holding a city-wide meeting on the 51st and we will get a good reply I am sure. Toronto has more than absorbed her quota and promises to get much more from pledges obtained from friends and sympathizers.

We are in entire agreement with your suggested tree for the Alexander case. However we have yet to see the carry out our last prescription. We received a letter from signifying his concurrence with the L.C. recommendation... have heard no more. While we have raised the question of coming to the centre for sometime now he has always stalled off with the job question. To live as a proletarian would certainly come as a shock to him but if he weathered the storm it would no doubt straighten him up.

I have just written to Angus again about coming East. We agree with you that Angus is a very capable comrade and will be a great asset for the party in the days to come. This is what motivates our ~~all~~ desire to get him to come to the centre. I am sure he could do good work in Coast unions and even better work in the Vancouver group which needs some bolstering up but we are faced with a serious problem of building up a functioning centre in the East where the great masses of the Canadian workers reside. George will be leaving us shortly and without some aid from the outside points where we have comrades who are already well developed we are going to be in difficulties. The Toronto group is growing but the type of recruits are not the old ones who had experience as a revolutionary C.P. but youth who are coming to the party from school and factories. We require a comrade who can do party work. Since Angus had suggested the possibility of his coming East and being impressed with his ability we naturally asked him to try to come. In his recent reply he too raised the question of the great field for work in the West but this is aside from the point. We have to build the party. We have to develop a leadership that can inspire the confidence of the membership. We have to build a leadership that has self confidence and mutual confidence. A years stay in Toronto would be a great experience for Angus and would be a great step in the building of our movement. The question of finance and family agreement is of course a serious one but I think we can help solve it. Anything you can do to aid Angus come to a correct decision will be appreciated.

What about you coming East, Paddy? The same reasons hold true in your case as in Angus'. Knowing how you like the West ~~East~~ and are more familiar with the Vancouver comrades we considered that perhaps you would best use your talents on the Vancouver comrades. However when we come out in the open as an independent party we will be faced with the pressing need of so public figures of your ability. We have none as yet. You could play a big role in building our movement nationally from the centre and also giving your organizational experience to the Toronto and Montreal groups who face great prospects of growth. We are now working on Jean to see if he could get someone on the payroll so that we can take advantage of his position and recent developments. This would be a top rate spot for you. What do you think? The Montreal group is in no position to help Jean and take advantage of the great opportunities that are there. While the group ~~has~~ loyally supports the movement financially it is basically petty-bourgeois and isolated from the working class, not only French but even English. The support that we can give Jean is only of a temporary character as we cannot possibly spare any of our forces. We would like you to seriously consider coming East for a period regardless of what happens with the attempts to get someone on the Montreal payroll.

I would like to hear your opinion of the first bulletin. I am enclosing for your information a letter from some of the Vancouver comrades to the N.O. and a reply. It appears that Bradley is getting the situation pretty well lined up. The opposition seems to be grouped ~~around~~ around G. Van and gives us the impression of smallness but vociferousness. We are anxiously awaiting the report on the meeting held on the 31st where there was discussion on the bulletin. Van ~~is~~ favours total entry and rejects the need of a revolutionary party. The next bulletin where we publish his document and also a blast against him will be out within a week so I won't say any more on the question.

Have you any contributions to the discussion?

I have drawn E.Y.'s attention to the fact that you are not receiving your sub. I have their receipt at hand and expect ~~that~~ that you will be fixed up C.E.

Comradely yours

R-3

April 6 1946

Dear Reg:

Wide

I have received your note of the 28th and am anxiously waiting for news from the City Wide Conference.

The emergency appeal for financial support has met with an inspiring support. Immediately upon receipt of the appeal, on behalf of the P.R. comrades, Paddy sent off \$20. A few days later the group added to this the sum of \$50. Toronto has also come across magnificently with over a two hundred dollar payment in to the National Office this month. Most of the comrades have jacked up their pledges into the vicinity of 8 and 10 per cent of their income. One comrade made a fifty dollar contribution.

I hope that the comrades in Vancouver will realize the importance of raising their contributions from the present \$20 a month which amounts to approximately only one dollar a month per person. This amounts to less than union dues and we are trying to build a revolutionary press and carry forward a twice monthly paper. I am sure that with a serious attempt the Vancouver pledge can be easily doubled or more. With the support of the group there the twice monthly will be assured and the National Office will be able to operate without a deficit.

How did the discussion on the first bulletin come off? I hope in your report you will give us some idea of the discussion and also the general relationship of forces. The second bulletin will in all probability reach the West Coast by the coming weekend of April 12th. The material is pretty well prepared for mimeographing.

Angus forwarded us a copy of a report on Archibald that he prepared on March 3rd for the Provincial Committee. No doubt you are already familiar with it. Toronto saw no sign of Archibald in spite of our attempts through the mail to have him come down a little early and stay for a period with the N.C. members here. He has never even considered it necessary to get in touch with us. In the present session of the House he has made a few statements. Unfortunately I have no copy of his long speech in reply to the speech from the throne and I cannot give you the date as a comrade has it out preparing an article on the session. He still maintains his position of complete support of the war. He was quoted in the West CCF News as saying the King government was following a defence policy that "was national suicide and criminal negligence!" More guns and more battleships. In this speech there was even less ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ working class content. He was quoted in the Star on the espionage case as challenging King why he didn't arrest the ICP long ago as they had sabotaged the war effort. It appears that he is now completely washed up.

The question of Archibald's relationship to our movement will be taken up at the next meeting of the P.C. and no doubt a statement will be sent out to all the branches. We would be interested to hear what he had to say to some of the P.C. members that you say he met and discussed with.

I am enclosing for the information of the membership a copy of a National Committee statement on the Alexander case which is pretty well self explanatory. Would you have this taken up at the next membership meeting. I am also enclosing a receipt for your last payment to the sustaining fund.

Comradely yours

Ross

April 6 1946

(21)

Dear Ellalina;

I hope that you have received the copies of Revolution Betrayed that I sent off immediately upon receipt of your order. I was unable to enclose the paper bound In Defence of Marxism because I had just sent off a large order to Montreal which seriously depleted our stock. I will forward them when I get my order from Pioneer any day now.

We carry an account with Pioneer and are in very good standing. Our prices probably include a little more than the 10% exchange but are found to be quite acceptable by the comrades. I was always under the impression that the Vancouver comrades understood that the National Office was willing to carry an account for the various branches. I remember sending out a letter to this effect and suggesting 30-60 days credit. We are charging the price listed to the various groups (listed on our sheet not the U.S.) I think that you should charge our price on your present stock. Otherwise your margin of profit after you pay exchange and money order will never permit you to pay off Reg. All book stores in Vancouver I am sure charge much more than the American list price plus 10%. I can scarcely understand your charging only .25 cents for F.I.s either. We charge .30. We are not running a philanthropic movement ~~the~~ money is a very important problem for us. These prices don't ~~harm~~ hurt our sales in the least. Comrades value our material and don't expect to get gifts. We are in business and hate to see you cut our prices. How about it.

On the question of bulletins....Unfortunately we have no copies of Bulletin VIII-3 on hand. Up until the middle of last month the American comrades have sent us copies of the bulletin free of charge. The cost obviously born by the sacrifices of the American comrades. On March 13 they informed us that we would be required to pay for them from now on and would we kindly place an order and open an account. They will cost us .20 cents a copy. At this price we will not be able to carry any stock on hand as it would soon run up a terrific bill. That is what prompted us to request definite orders from each group. We will be able to get copies of the back issue if you still require them. I have however been holding back my order until I heard from you comrades. Incidentally we will have to charge ~~XXXX~~ .25 cents a copy. I will open up an account upon receipt of your order.

How did the meeting of the 31st come off. We are still waiting for word of how the comrades met our emergency appeal for funds to carry on the paper. P.R. and Toronto gave an immediate response and a very inspiring one. P.R. sent in \$70 right away. Toronto sent in \$200 made up of a gift from one comrade of \$50.00. I can scarcely understand the silence on this urgent matter. I have just sent off another letter to Reg.

How is the political situation? Was the first bulletin well received? What is the present strength of the Van tendency? The next bulletin should be out and in your hands by Sunday the 14th. We publish Tom, Van, Alex, and two other documents...should provoke a lively interest.

We received a copy of the CCF Resolutions etc from Tom. I can readily agree that this time there is going to be a decisive fight. I see that we are challenging the bureaucrats for organizational leadership. There are some good resolutions also jammed in among a lot of junk and centrist material. I suppose that the group will be holding a few city wide meetings to prepare for any eventualities and discussions on the resolutions etc.

While I had ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the stencil of Tom's contribution typed out before receipt of the correction I will be able to have it changed alright.

Hope that you have recovered from the flu and the early spring that we are having here and you always have there finds you in the best of health. Hugh sends George his best wishes. Give my regards to all the comrades

Comradely yours

A handwritten signature, possibly 'R. J. D.', written in dark ink.

87 King St. W. Toronto 1, Ont.

April 19 1946

Dear Comrade Stanton;

We have received your very interesting enquiries as to the authenticity of the Stalinist editions of the works of the great Marxist masters. A great deal could be said on this question but I limit myself to just a few remarks.

Labor Challenge advertises the International Publishers editions of Lenin Marx and Engels. Not through any particular desire on our part but due to the fact that no other editions of these books are available on the market. Kerr publishers do not handle any of Lenin's works and only a few of Marx and Engels.

To our knowledge no one has ever proven that the Stalinist bureaucracy has ever forged or falsified the texts themselves of ~~LENIN MARX~~ these books. I have had occasion to check casually the I.P. edition of Lenin's Left-Wing Communism with an edition put out many years ago by the Marxian Educational Society. The translations were identical except for the odd word which in no way could be considered as a distortion of the meaning of the text.

However there are many other and more subtle methods of falsifying the meaning, the content of these ~~XX~~ works. Lenin's works in particular have been distorted and falsified by means of introductions, prefaces, explanatory notes and foot notes, that are used to interpret his revolutionary ideas in the light of the current desires of the bureaucracy.

Another very effective method that Stalinism has utilized to distort Lenin in particular is through their absolute control of all his works and the great wealth at their disposal. The complete works of Lenin have never been published in English. There are great gaps in his writings. The earlier work particularly every note and soap dealing with his disagreements with Trotsky have been widely distributed. Every shade and nuance of disagreement with Trotsky has been magnified a thousand fold... this was part of the great campaign to create the myth of Trotskyism as distinct from Bolshevism and Marxism that you read about in the Stalin School of Falsification. And while this material abounds, practically all of Lenin's later work remains in the Leningrad or Moscow archives covered with dust. The most notable work that never saw the light of day is the document that has since become known as the Suppressed Testament of Lenin. All the later works dealing with the threatening rise of bureaucracy that so concerned Lenin in his last years, many of his articles on the role of the Soviet Union and the World revolution, etc. have never been published. This might be called falsification by censorship ~~XX~~

The first factor that I have mentioned--distortion by foot notes ETC. would in part substantiate the claims of some persons that certain editions are more authentic than others. As the Bureaucracies line has veered from one direction to the other so have the notes, introductions and prefaces etc. The earlier editions of Lenin are therefore much more reliable in the sense that the C.I. in its first 5 years was a revolutionary marxist C.I. The notes etc in these works play a very important role in the understanding of the text. Many persons and movements that Lenin dealt with and interpreted are now ~~very~~ comparatively obscure. Without correct notes ~~TEXT COMING FROM THE MOSCOW LIBRARY~~ and a knowledge of the historic period dealt with the material can easily be distorted.

Someone suggested that editions published prior to the Moscow trials are valid. What happened after the Moscow Trials was a complete purge of the International Publisher library. Lenin's Socialism and War where he develops the position of revolutionary defeatism, turn the imperialist war into Civil War etc. and which he wrote in collaboration with Zinoviev has been pugged along with Zinoviev. Bukharin's, Kamenev's, Madak's, Niazanov's and a whole host of other old bolsheviks works no longer are obtainable. Stalin burnt the books.

The works of Marx and Engels are not so commonly distorted as they dealt with problems of another epoch. ~~XXX~~ Luck and Coy. do not have near the trouble to explain them away as they do with Lenin who dealt with the problems of our epoch...an epoch of imperialist wars and proletarian revolutions. However nothing is sacred and above the corrupting hand of the bureaucracy. During the war the I.P. put out a pamphlet which was a culling of the writings of Marx and Engels on Reactionary Prussianism. This was a crude attempt to destroy Marx's internationalism ~~XXX~~ and to cloak the 11th imperialist war with the theoretical sanctity of Marx.. On their edition of the Communist Manifesto they quote republican Wendell Willkie, mouthpiece of American Imperialism;" It is one of the great historical documents". Bury it deep! a historic document! Rather a timeless document. It still remains a guide post in the revolutionary struggle against capitalism.

One might ask why they continue to publish Marx, Engels and Lenin. Stalinism directs its energies towards the capture of the revolutionary working class---only in order to strangle its revolutionary development, to utilize it as a pressure group in its manoeuvres with world imperialism.

During the lifetime of great revolutionaries, the oppressing classes have visited relentless persecution on them and received their teaching with the most savage hostility, the most furious hatred, the most ruthless campaign of lies and slanders. After their death, attempts are made to turn them into harmless icons, canonize them and surround their names with a certain halo for the "consolation" of the oppressed ~~XXXXX~~ classes and with the object of duping them, while at the same time emasculating and vulgarizing the real essence of their revolutionary theories and blunting their revolutionary edge.

And so the bourgeois professors and social chauvinists with Marx.
So also Stalin and the bureaucracy with Lenin.

I hope that I have answered the most important aspects of your letter. I am enclosing a book list handled by Labor Challenge for your convenience. I would heartily recommend Trotsky's First Five Years of the C.I.. Do not hesitate to address any further enquiries our way

Comradely Yours

Rev. D. J. Brown

April 19 1946

Dear Comrade Fergusson;

We have been watching your trek across Canada. You are leaving quite a trail of Labor Challenges behind you. You are doing a good job in filling in the extensive gaps in our subscribers list.

We have put the Peoples Weekly on the mailing list for exchange and are already getting results. The Saskatchewan paper is already on our exchange list. We have been working on that idea that you suggest of sending papers to the odd person who sends in letters to the editor but so far have met with no result. But you never know. We are glad to see that you have had the opportunity to drop in on some of the comrades whose contact with us from year to year is limited exclusively to the mails. Your visit should provide some of these comrades with a little spurt of activity. I hope that you were able to obtain pledges from some of these comrades. In Saskatoon this chap Minnovitz should be able to make a substantial contribution to the movement. Jean Holman could be approached on this basis also (Outlook). Also Faulkner at Uncas and Burki at Moon Lake, both in Alberta.

Here is the Winnipeg list. I don't know how I overlooked it except possibly for the fact that we do not know anyone of these people.

E Archer	103	Devonshire Apts.	Winnipeg
A Arnott	802	Williams Ave	
Louis Drey	385	Seymour St.	
M Freed	382	Alfred Ave	
H. Howar	249	Kitson St. Norwood.	Winnipeg
Louis Orlikow	304	Glenwood Crescent	
A. Stewart	1	Smithfields Apts.	--this is the M.P.
Wm White		Can. Bakery Worker's Union	202 McIntyre Blk.

I agree one hundred per cent with your statement that we can build a party here in Canada. The general situation is riper than it was ever before. The IFF and CCF have been found wanting by great numbers of workers. The reception that our press has got has substantiated this. Published under circumstances that you might consider semi-illegal....we have almost one thousand subscribers. We are confident that we will reach our objective in the current sub drive for another 1000 new subscribers.

Our present orientation prohibits us from really taking advantage of the great opportunities that exist today. Having no organizational structure we tend to appear as carping critics---we offer no alternative to Buck and Coldwell. ~~Intermittent and sporadic activities in the form of~~ The P.C. document calling for the formation of an open section of the 4th has been endorsed overwhelmingly by all the groups. The only apparent opposition came from Van and a few of his ~~ENEMY~~ cronies. Unfortunately they remained away from the special meeting called by the comrades....we have heard no further. The second bulletin will be out shortly and should pretty well clear the air.

I am mailing along with this letter 10 copies of the last issue of the Challenge ~~which you can probably make~~ which you can probably make good use of. You will note that in this issue we announce the special .25 cent 6 month offer. I suppose you will have to conform to the new price. Did you have the opportunity to drop in on some of those persons who were unknown to us in Sask and Alta. We would be interested to hear of the reception you had.

We are all very anxious to see you shortly here in Toronto.

All the Best



May 11 1946

Dear Tom;

(2) Brodley

Seage Clark(?) = SWP

Comrade Clarke has given us a detailed report on the splendid showing you comrades made at the Convention and on the great progress of the Vancouver branch. We certainly expect big things from the Vancouver Comrades after the blow up he gave you. The most encouraging news was that there is now such perfect agreement on perspectives. It's a case of patience rewarded--ah!

No! I guess you have not received the second bulletin yet as I have been tied up and have not been able to polish it up. However I will get it run off this week-end and ship it out right away. Very sorry about the delay.

Last night we called a meeting of the P.C. to discuss some very important problems that have arisen. The minutes will be out shortly but there are a couple of items that cannot brook delay.

Now that there is agreement on perspective...and we appear to have a short breather ahead before the fireworks....we must have a discussion on how we intend to implement our perspective. We ~~must~~ must make preparations at once as the CCF National Convention is only a short way off and any documents and resolutions must be in shortly. It would be desirable to make a clear powerful and complete exposition of our ideas to the largest possible circles. The most effective method to do this in our opinion would be to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ draw up a document calling for the affiliation of the CCF to the 4th International. By approaching the problem in this manner we would raise ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ our position sharpest and it would enable us to present it in a very rounded form. This document would outline the general world situation, preparations for the next imperialist war, the counter-revolutionary policies of the Stalinists and Social democrats, the records of the 2nd 3rd and 4th Internationals, the road for the Canadian and international working-class to power....etc. We could present the document to the various clubs in which we have influence for their endorsement and send it in for the national convention. This could be in essence the foundation document of the organization. We could get it passed at the one club there under our control and thus it would come before the national convention. We might be fortunate enough to even get a delegate there who could head the fight.

Before going to the trouble of drawing the document up we would like the comrades agreement. Would you take this up with the group as soon as possible so that we could get to work on it. Probably all resolutions are required to be in within the next month so we have little time at our disposal.

Would you comrades send the Prince Rupert comrades a report of the Convention. I understand that Mrs. Black was the delegate so they will get a very distorted picture and no doubt her report will have repercussions in the P.R. club.

I undera

I understand that we have two French Canadian comrades in the Vancouver Branch. George tells me that he was talking to you about these comrades and he suggested that they might prove valuable to Jean. Would you take up the question of their coming East with these comrades. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ A couple of comrades, french speaking, would prove very useful to Jean and our building of a French Canadian ~~XXXXXXXX~~ movement. They could be placed in some key shop and possibly a little while later squeezed in on the payroll.

A Windsor comrade Don Dotzert has given me the name of a chap whom he got to subscribe to L.C. My impression from reading a letter from him and what Don has to say is that he might possibly be material for us. Sometime when you have a spare moment could you drop in on him and have a discussion with him.

Ed. Trempe 622 East 12th Ave Vancouver.

Hope to hear from you as soon as possible.

Comradely

Ross Dowson.

May 11 1946

Dear Ellaline;

This is just a ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ hurry up note to take up a few questions with you

I intended to write you sometime ago that I am unable to get copies of the Internal Bulletin Vol VIII-3 that you asked for. I hope that the June issue of the F.I.L. will make up for it though as I understand it will carry all the most important documents of the International conference. It might be well to order extra copies for a little wider circulation.

Do you know the prop. of the Scenery Shop in Vancouver. He recently sent in an order for 5 copies of The Revolution Betrayed...I notice that he is also a subscriber of the paper. I suggested that he take a few copies of The First Five Years and make a real display with the Stalin biography but I have heard no further word.

Could you let me know how many Party Builders the comrades want out there. We have been tied up in knots lately and I have not been able to finish off our second bulletin but it should be in your hands by next week end.

This coming issue of L.C. will carry ~~XX~~ a very extensive analysis of the CCF convention. Since you comrades played such a prominent role and there has been practically no press on it in the CCF News and Pacific Tribune I think we should get a good circulation. Can we increase the Vancouver bundle substantially? I would like to double all of it if not more. What do you say??? Would you let me know at once by airmail as we will be cutting off the press in a few days.

George gave us a very full report of the splendid developments in the Vancouver group. We are gratified to hear that there is now a general agreement on perspectives and we are looking forward to a rapid growth and spread of influence. I have just glanced through Eve's notes of the Convention...our comrades certainly did an excellent job. This the first time when we have had a clear perspective and coordinated our work was so fruitful that it ~~XXXXXX~~ heralds a great future for the branch.

George assured us that you would top your quota in the sub campaign and probably double it. The Toronto comrades have got off to a good start and now have about 175 new subscribers.....nearly all obtained from door to door canvass. The new comrades are leading the whole track. Byron Johnson has sent in 8 and we received in the mail yesterday ~~XX~~ Vancouver's initial contribution. I am enclosing the receipt. The letter did not say who it was from.

Comradely

[Handwritten signature]

Bradley

Dear Tom:

I am enclosing your copy of the rather delayed P.C. minutes of May 13th. I have just returned from the U.S. and Montreal trips and am still in a rather bad state of organization which will take a while to get straightened out.

I am sending this note out right away however because of the extremely short time left before the CCF national convention. You will note by the minutes that the P.C. discussed in detail the B.C. situation and was unanimous in its decision that we must carry forward the fight that we had commenced at the convention--that is sharpen the struggle. The minutes read;"that the P.C. recommend that the comrades agreement be obtained on the idea of raising the issue of affiliation to the 4th International at the National Convention. The reason why it was suggested that we raise our program in this manner was because it would enable us to give our position in its most rounded and complete form. Another factor to consider was that affiliation to some International body of some sort has been raised at all the recent CCF conventions. and this gives us an opportunity to exploit this healthy situation.

In your hasty note of May 16 you state that you are drafting the resolution on basis of the suggested pattern but without the name of the International. Have you had an opportunity to discuss this question with the D.C.? The resolution should be brought before all the comrades and thoroughly discussed so we can really press its adoption at all of the clubs where we have anyone. This resolution should sum up our political position that we developed at the Convention...and drive home its conclusions.

The question of rounding it off with the call of affiliation to the 4th id of course a tactical one. I am personally of the opinion that it consolidates in its sharpest form our complete program, however ~~there~~ there are other factors to consider. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ We would like the B.C. comrades to discuss this matter in the light of the P.C. recommendation, and give us your opinion. It would be ~~well~~ well if the comrades discussed the immediate perspective of the Vancouver group itself. I am of the opinion that we should attempt to keep a fraction in one or two of the ~~CCF~~ CCF clubs if possible. The question of the role of the various comrades is important as we are now too flush with numbers. Who will constitute the CCF fraction and who the open party group? On this decision rests the roles the various comrades will play in the coming fight with the CCF bureaucracy. What repercussions will expulsion from the CCF have on our trade union work? It appears that most of our trade union activity has been conducted within the CCF trade union ~~committee~~ committee. I would appreciate the opinion of the comrades on these questions.

Will write more fully later on this week

Comradely yours

BC
(
June 4th 1946

Dear Reg;

I am enclosing copies of some correspondence that the group on the west coast should be aware of. This material should not be noised around...not read to the group but let Tom and Lloyd see it and other responsible comrades. Just for information purposes in case the situation develops further which I am quite sure it will not.

Sorry I cannot say much as correspondence has been piling up and I have a thousand things to do since I came back from my stay in Montreal and New York. Will pick up connections again in a few days I hope. I am a little worried about the sub situation the e. Know how busy you are out there but hope that we can go well over the top.

Comradely yours

Ross

June 13 1946

Dear Comrade White:

It is an extremely long time since we have heard from you. I note that I sent you a very long letter on April 16th and I have not yet ~~XXXX~~ received a reply from you

I have been out of town for a few weeks or I would have dropped you a line some time ago. I had the good fortune to attend the plenum of our American party which was held in New York and am only now catching up on the pile of mail that has accumulated in my absence.

I am particularly anxious to know if you received your book order alright. Perhaps that has been keeping you busy. How are you coming along with those CCF contacts that you mentioned you were working on?

No doubt you have been watching our special sub campaign
XXXXXX in the columns of Labor Challenge. The comrades in
Toronto are getting excellent results from their door to door
work and it looks like we are going to have lots of material to
work on with these hundreds of new subscribers. We hope that
you will be able to help the West Coast get off to a good start.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
The very low price makes it easy to sell and I don't doubt that
the paper will pick up a few good contacts for you in town.

Did Paddy drop in on you? I suppose you know that he is coming East to give us a hand. We are all looking forward to his arrival.

Will you drop us a line as soon as possible and take up some of the points that I dealt with in the last letter.

Revolutionary greetings

Ross Dowson

To the Vancouver Branch

Dear Comrades;

On June 2nd the National Office sent a circular letter on the campaign for a thousand new Labor Challenge subscribers to all branches. For the Vancouver and Montreal branches this letter was an emergency communication.

The letter pointed out the failure of some branches to keep pace with the amount of time elapsing and suggested various methods that had been utilized by successful subgetters and might be used by other comrades and branches. Neither branch, Vancouver or Montreal, has yet replied to this letter with any more subscriptions.

Comrades! This is an emergency communication. In the city of Vancouver, the most important labor center in the entire West and where we have a sizeable group of experienced and able comrades, Labor Challenge now has the ridiculously small circulation of 80 paid up subscribers. This figure includes all subscribers, renewed subscriptions and subs obtained in the 25 cent subscription campaign. Labor Challenge is in danger of ceasing to exist in circulation as a national paper. In Vancouver it amounts almost to a house organ scarcely reaching outside our own ranks.

Over two months ago the Vancouver group accepted its quota of 300 new subscribers. The quotas were originally recommendations from the National Committee. Some branches asked for a revision of their original quota and this was done. But no one in Vancouver even suggested that its quota was too high--on the contrary we understand that some comrades were confident at the time of its discussion that they might possibly double the quota.

On the basis of the *acceptance of the quotas we announced* ~~the Vancouver group~~ *announced* in press a campaign to obtain 1000 new subscribers within 3 months. Many of the most advanced Canadian workers already have our paper. We told these workers whom we are attempting to inspire with our ideas and to bring to our movement that we were out to obtain a thousand new subscribers. The Campaign subsequently becomes a test of strength for our movement. A test of strength that is watched closely by both our friends and our enemies.

Vancouver accepted a quota of 300 new subscribers. Well over two months have passed and Vancouver stands only at the 50 mark. Our pace setters scoreboard informs workers who are watching our campaign that there are over eight persons in one center who have obtained over 30 subscriptions each. The conclusions that any reader would draw from the Vancouver score could only be (1) that we have only 2 or 3 persons in Vancouver, or

June 26 1946)

Dear Comrade White;

By now you have in all probability received your book order of June 11.

Proletarian Lessons is a book published by Charles Kerr of Chicago. We do not carry their publications on stock but we have an account with them and will order these 6 copies if you desire. I enclosed a copy of a new edition of "The Death Agonies of Capitalism and the Tasks of the 4th International" which I thought you would not have read. I am sure that you will find its very clear explanation of our transitional program very useful in your trade union work. The Stalin book is specially priced only for our own comrades. Counter price in Canada is \$6.50

1	Stalin	4.75
6	Trade Union Prob.	.90
1	Death Agonies	.30

		5.95

We have entered your name on the bundle order list for 5 copies of Labor Challenge, each issue.

I am enclosing copies of the Kerr Book List, the Pioneer Publishers List, and also our listing of stock on hand ~~WLEN~~ at Canadian prices. The Stalinists have quite an extensive list of material but + have no recent copies on hand. Very little of it is of any value to you but you might write to them and look it over.

We are very glad to see that you have integrate yourself in ~~the political situation~~ at Britannia Beach so soon after your arrival there. I would assume from your letter that the union is comparatively new there...from the fear of many workers of the company and the fact that there is as yet no strong LPP or CCF clubs. The immediate period ahead is going to wipe out the inexperience of the younger workers whom you say have not yet awakened and destroy the anti-political attitude of some of the trade union elements.

Trotsky just before his death was working on an article on trade unions and this epoch. We intend to publish it shortly in Labor Challenge. He pointed out that the crisis of world capitalism is throwing up a new radical trade union leadership. The old bureaucrats are becoming more and more identified with the capitalist state (this was particularly true during the War with the WLB which these fellows don't wish to leave) and are becoming more estranged from the ~~LEADERSHIP~~ membership of the unions. Of course the most minor concessions from the bosses today are gained only when the workers take the road to most militant

action. The workers in their strikes are coming increasingly more in contact with police ~~VXX~~ violence and interference from the capitalist state. The trade unions are going to go through a period of great internal crisis. The struggle for democracy in the unions is going to take on a very sharp form. The leadership of the trade unions is going to become revolutionary and find its path to the Fourth International.

I think that the rise of Reuther in the UAW, the fight against Murray at the Steel convention recently and the role of the trade union bureaucrats including the CCF and LPP union leaders in the recent strikes is a verification of Trotsky's prognosis.

The trade union movement, always important for revolutionaries is becoming a more important field for us. We should take responsible posts in this period and attempt to gather around us elements who are attracted to a serious fighting program. It would be well to do some concentrated work on this Ken Smith and any other elements that appear militant.

I think that the LPP might open up some channels for recruitment. There is a great deal of confusion among the rank and file what with this pseudo left turn. The American comrades have won quite a number of ExCPers to their ranks lately. The McKean meeting in Vancouver was packed last week. By and large the LPP I think presents better possibilities today than does the CCF. Your post X?XHXSCXMXCXLHSL on the educational committee should prove very valuable for turning up some good elements.

I enclosed the copy of the transitional program in your order for I am sure you will find it of extreme importance in any educational work you do. Our transitional program is easily understood and very powerful. Many of our slogans have already been taken up in the recent strike struggles. Particularly open the books. Our Buffalo comrades who have extensive influence in the trade union movement have done some excellent work along this line. If you already have not a sub to the Militant and F.I I would strongly urge you to do so. For trade union coverage the Militant is first rate and you can follow closely our American comrades work in the trade union ~~FIELD~~ field.

We are glad to hear that you are so close to Vancouver. While we would like to discuss with you any particular problems you have in mind we are very far removed from the scene. We are sure that the Vancouver comrades can be of great aid to you in your work.

I understand from your letter that you expected quite a hot meeting on the strike vote on June 13. We would appreciate any material you can send us for Labor Challenge. You might start off with the occasional letter or short article on the local situation. We want to make our press a workers paper and to make it really one we desire to get more material from the field and cut down on the office composition.

Comradely yours

Ros s¹ Dowson

July 7th
(Found in 1946)

Dear Tom;

I suppose you have been wondering what could possibly have happened to us down here. We got tied up with the last issue of the paper more than usual for at the last minute the printer informed us that he would not be able to go to press before the holiday and we had to revamp material. Murray went off on a long needed holiday to the American comrades summer camp and so I am really tied up tight now.

I am enclosing two resolutions that all comrades of both the P.C. and now the N.C. have ~~passed~~ except you. We had originally planned to take up the one on the 4th International at our conference but are now of the opinion that we should now solidarize our movement with the 4th and begin to participate in the life of the F.I. The Toronto branch concurred after we had a lengthy report of the Conference which was lead by one of the comrades. ~~XXXX~~ Copies have been sent out to all the branches and comrades at large.

I am also enclosing the minutes of the last P.U. ~~meeting~~ meeting. I think that they are self explanatory. You will note the recommendation on the National Convention. I hope that some of the boys can get down on the T.W. expense account. Is the date O K. The P.C. is in agreement with your recommendations of June 16th. It is important that we get to work on the Convention statement right away. It can be based to a large extent on the P.C. statement issued in the first internal bulettin. It should be a well documented rounded statement on the CCF and its relation to the canadian worker's struggle. It should explain in very simple manner our principled differences with the CCF and point out the need for a revolutionary program and a revolutionary party. This statement should be mimeographed and circulated to the convention and the press, and also to all the clubs.

Can you comrades get to work on it at once and send in a ~~copy~~ a copy of it in lots of time for me to call a P.C. meeting to discuss it and suggest any changes that may be necessary? I notice with a bit of alarm that the convention is on August 7. not much time but I think sufficient.

The P.C. agrees with your idea of really making a drive in the various clubs to support Lloyd's position and rallying all support to L.C. Clubs and where possible taking over whole clubs and calling our constituent convention. with representatives from these groups.

It is absolutely beyond our present financial means to send out anyone to Regina to give Lloyd a hand. We are hard pressed after the CCF convention trip and we will have to try and raise some money for our own convention in September. Our last budget which we presented to the organization was just sufficient to carry us if realized and with no extra expenses. As you know from our last letter to all the branches we are not quite realizing our budget now and only one group has so far sent in funds for its paper bundle orders which now amount to quite a sum

about
I would like to say a few words on my own behalf ~~WACON~~ the ~~XX~~ opening part of your June 16 letter. You seem to think from remarks in ~~MM~~ my correspondence that I am of the opinion ~~or~~ appear to fear that you will not take up questions raised in the correspondence with the Vancouver comrades. So you have had other comrades write about the questions involved to verify the fact that everything is handled through the regular channels.

~~XXXX~~ The idea that you would not raise these questions before the group is farthest from my thoughts. However I will admit that there are some grounds for you to perhaps carry that impression. I have raised the question of presenting these problems to the group on several occasions not because of any mistrust or any lack of confidence in you..quite the contrary. I have had the impression for a long long time and I think ~~XX~~ ~~XXX~~ that there are good grounds for it, that the Vancouver group does not meet regularly as a branch and that many details are handled in a non-centralized manner. But not at all for reasons of any dictatorial desire of any comrade ~~XXXXXX~~. My impression is that there is still a certain hangover from our CCF background and that organizationally we tend to be loose and lack centralization. All reports that we receive seem to bear that out. Results in the subscription campaign that we are just closing and our financial drive of last winter confirm me in that opinion.

I don't know how else to account for the Vancouver failure to achieve their accepted quotas in both campaigns. ~~XXXX~~ Last week for instance we received some mail from 2 comrades in the group. One was a donation of one dollar, and one dollar for a sub renewal from Eve Smith. The other was a package of 6 or 7 subscriptions from Lefty. We in Toronto have a sect-treasurer who handles all funds of the ~~XXXX~~ Toronto group and who turns our quota to the National office. Toronto has its own subscription campaign director who once a week hands over the proceeds from that week's sub work to the National Director Dave Williams. We did the same with the financial drive. This is the Bolshevik method of organization. We have found that it is the only way to get things done. The Strike involved some of our best comrades in Vancouver but not everyone. And even our striking comrades can spare a night once in a while for this work. My impression from correspondence and Lefty's note is that you do not operate this way ~~XXXX~~ that things are not organized on a campaign and efficient basis despite the ability and talent of our Vancouver comrades

I have always hesitated to raise these questions sharp and ~~clear~~ clear. I was always of the opinion that the comrades would come to the conclusion that the group as it became tied closer to us, as we isolated the Van influence ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ in order to function as a group ~~XXXXXX~~ would have to meet once a week as does Toronto or at least every other week as do P.R. and Montreal. I was confident that the comrades themselves would come to the conclusion that they would have to meet as one group and more regularly as time went on, and have hesitated to interfere on such questions with such experienced comrades as we have in the Vancouver branch.

So that is what is behind those remarks that ~~XXXXXX~~ impressed you with the idea that I thought you were not ~~XXXXXXXX~~ bringing up the various questions with the group. I have been trying to suggest that what is behind the failure of the group to achieve its quotas is its failure to meet regularly and organize on a disciplined basis. Perhaps I am wrong. I think not. What made me hesitate to bring it up openly and sharply was that it is the problem of the group itself, the fact that the group contains experienced comrades and I thought that they would probably come to these conclusions.

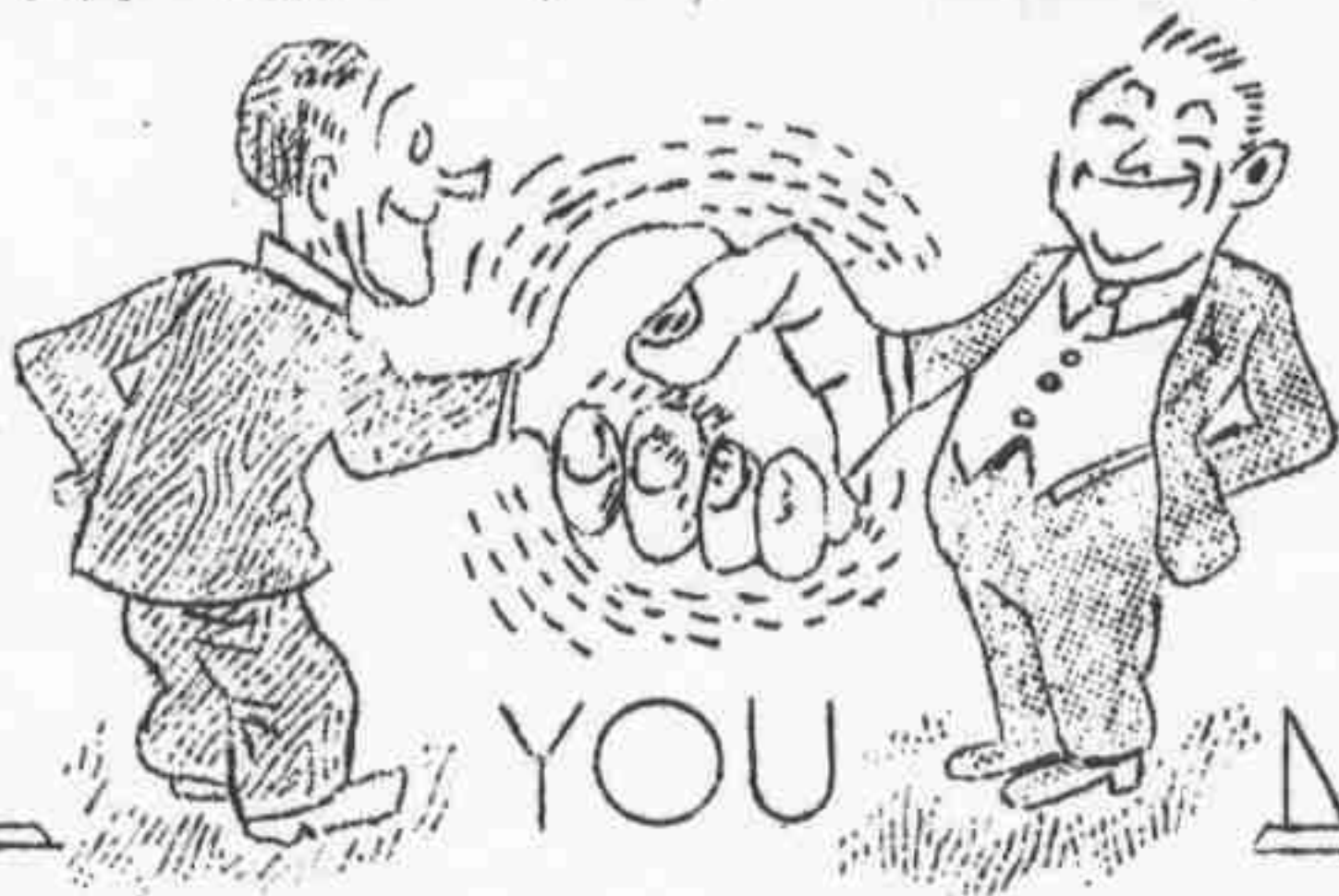
Rather a long winded explanation but I think it important that there should be no misunderstanding such as has appeared to ~~develop~~ have developed between you and I.

Will you give Lyoya a hand with the document for the CCF convention so that we can get hold of it in time to discuss its varied aspects here in a P.C. meeting. There are several other matters that I had wanted to take up but I see that we have so little time for the document that I dare not hold up this letter any longer.

Warmest regards

ROSS

WE



AT THE
NEXT

WANT

YOU

MEETING

ATTEND YOUR MEETING - PLAY YOUR PART.

The pressure exerted by the Shop Stewards and rank and file members of Local 1-217, has forced the Local Executive to commit themselves to withdrawal of their motion calling for the raising of the monthly dues to \$2.00. Our members should feel gratified with the results achieved against this unwarranted increase in dues - this should pave the way to greater victories in our fight to establish and defend Trade Union Democracy.

We are of the opinion that a STRIKE FUND is very essential and should be wholeheartedly endorsed and subscribed to as a STRIKE FUND, and should not be confused with Local Dues. This STRIKE FUND should be raised by every member paying into it, the amount to be raised and other factors in connection with this fund to be decided by referendum ballot of all members.

A STRIKE FUND MUST BE LABELLED AS SUCH - AND NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE!

NOTICE OF MOTION 3 as outlined in the July 15th issue of SAWDUST TRAIL, dealing with BALLOTING PROCEDURE will be voted on at our next Local Meeting August 11th. We feel this motion should receive the full support of all members, and if adopted by our Local, would establish real democratic procedure for elections, free from machining on the part of any group.

MAKE YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE NEXT LOCAL MEETING AUGUST 11th a MUST!

VOTE FOR TRADE UNION DEMOCRACY BY VOTING FOR THE SUGGESTED BALLOTING PROCEDURE.

A UNION IS ONLY AS STRONG AS THE MEMBERS IN ITS RANKS!

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(Copy of leaflet issued by I.W.A. group)

July 17 1946

Dear Ellaline;

I have only got free of the work entailed in the last issue of the paper but there have been several affairs that I would like to take up with you that have been accumulating for the past while so I am replying right away.

In my last letter to Reg I sent along some information on people who had recently picked up the paper and part of the results of the letter that we sent to all CCF clubs in B.C. asking for subs and financial support. I cannot find my carbon copy so I may be repeating;

P.J Flynn Box 141 Duncan B.C.

K Bratvold Box 860 Duncan B.C.

A.J. Mason Coombs CCF Club Hilliers, Vancouver Island B.C.

responded to the CCF circular letter and took advantage of the sub offer.

We received an extremely interesting letter from a C.R. New to whom we send a bundle order at Fraser Arm P.O. We have not published the letter because it is ~~EXTREMELY~~ exceedingly long and would take up almost a whole page of our paper. Is this chap a ~~COMRADE~~ member of the organization? Received a few subs from Muriel Bradley and also from Lefty Morgan.

In the coming issue of Labor Challenge you will notice that we print two very good letters from B.C. The first letter on the CCF is written by R.Riley, 561 Wakesiah Ave Nanaimo B.C. The last letter which we sign a Nanaimo B.C. reader is from Alex K. Low ~~XX~~ 594 Harewood Road, Nanaimo, B.C. These letters are very good and I wonder if it would not be possible for one of the comrades to drop around to see them both and bring them into our movement ~~XX~~ We might possibly form a branch there. From your letter I gather that ~~XX~~ Tom goes over there occasionally

Would you please send me a list of all the newsstands that handle L.C. We want to run an add in the paper and need their addresses etc. Yes we are sending a bundle to the Nanaimo stand.

We are increasing Comrade Whitney's bundle and have cut off Lemesurier's bundle. I have also just sent in the mail a few copies of our letter that we send to persons that have received sample copies.

When we have an opportunity we will have a complete list of expired subs typed out and sent to you. This work of going around for renewals gives us a good opportunity to see what results we have obtained from our press. We should be able to pick up some good contacts for our movement in this work. I think it might be a good idea to give each comrade a couple of names to see at each meeting and on the following week have him give a report on his work to the meeting. As you know our failure ~~XX~~ in the 1000 sub campaign practically wiped us out in Vancouver.

I am sure that most of these subscribers will renew. But the most important thing in this work is to get in conversation with them and try to bring them to the 4th.

I am enclosing a list of names sent to us by the Militant of ~~XXXXXX~~ persons who have been receiving complimentary copies or whose subs have expired. These people will no longer be receiving copies of the Militant. You will note that many of them do not get the Labor Challenge. These people should be approached as soon as possible. Not for renewal to the Militant but to Labor Challenge and the F.I.

This may seem strange that I suggest that we do not attempt to get subs for the Militant as it is our paper also. But recently we received a letter from an old subscriber to L.C. whose sub came up for renewal. He did not renew his LC. sub because he was receiving the Militant which as he said "gave him the same authentic information two weeks earlier". As you have no doubt noticed our international material is the same as the Militant since we both use the 4th International news service and it would be foolish for us to write up this material when we have so few writers. However aside from the international page in the paper the rest is all application of our principles to the Canadian scene. We have met contacts that agree with the Militant policy but not with the LC policy even though to you and I they are fundamentally the same. The big difference is that L.C. deals with problems right here at home and sometimes disagrees with the ideas of these subscribers. The Militant that deals with problems that are only of academic interest to these people as they do not involve them. Our paper is the Labor Challenge which is complimented by the theoretical organ the F.I. We in Toronto have obtained many subs for the F.I. but we sell subs to the Militant only to our own comrades. We do not push the Militant or even mention it. Of course if someone insists on subscribing to the Militant and not L.C. we would take their sub.

Woodie Marshall 2040 Jones Ave. North Vancouver has sent in a one year sub to the Militant but has not renewed his sub to Labor Challenge.

I hope that we can get right to work on this renewal problem in Vancouver. I will try to get someone to type the list right up to date but I think you have enough to work on for a while. I am sure that we will pick up some party material in this work.

Paddy is going great fire here. He has obtained a job in Massey Harris, a big implement factory here and we have been fortunate in the past week in inspiring some other comrades to go to work there. We now have a faction of 5 persons in the one shop and we are expecting big developments there. He sends his regards to all the comrades.

Warmest regards

Ross

July 17 1946

Bellock

Dear Reg;

I had intended to wait for the minutes of the city-wide meeting held July 7 before replying but one of the items you mention can no longer be delayed.

In this issue of the paper we are announcing the close of the ~~XXXXXX~~ subscription campaign. I received your letter requesting the N.C. to consider extending the time limit on July 11th. Unfortunately the N.C. cannot decide on such a question at such short notice--4 days, but I have taken the question up with the majority of the comrades and they consider that it would be a mistake to extend the campaign any longer. The P.C. is of the opinion that it would be a mistake to extend it for several reasons;

The campaign objective was not exceedingly large and the time set for the campaign has proven in most cases ample. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ The Toronto group that has born the brunt of the campaign has done excellent work and we do not feel justified in asking these comrades to carry on the campaign for any longer length of time. Yet if we extended the time it would of course be necessary to do so.

Side by side the graph showing the group results we have been carrying a graph showing the individual results obtained by many comrades in the organization. One comrade will appear to have obtained by himself over 105 subscriptions. There are nine comrades with over 40 subs each. The graph shows that the Vancouver quota and Montreal quotas could have been reached by only nine preten active workers. How can we justify to our readers and potential

members the need to extend the time for a couple of branches that have small quotas.

The campaign has been on for three solid months yet Montreal has sent in only a handful. It appears to me obvious that to extend it another three months would yeild us very few more. As you are no doubt aware the total ~~XXXX~~ listed under Vancouver icludes every sub we have received that with any stretch of the imagination could be considered Vancouver's. The ~~three~~ month campaign failed badly and what quarantee have we that one month more would bring in any substantial numbers.

We are of the opinion that to extend it further can only have a further demoralizing effect on our comrades and readers. It is in the best interests of the organization to close this page. That is close it to the public. I think that we should however have a very serious discussion on the results for the benefit of all comrades concerned and in the interests of any such further activities we may plan to carry out.

The other matters that you raised in your letter I will leave until I receive the minutes of the meeting which probably cover some of the questions more fully.

Comradely yours

Ross

July 22 1946

Dear Lloyd;

On July 7th I sent a letter to Tom dealing with the statement that ~~XX~~ we agreed to draw up to present to the ~~XXXXXX~~ National CCF Convention that takes place on August 7.

We now have only a week and a half to work on this statement and it would be desirable that ~~XXXX~~ both the National Committee and the B.C. membership had an opportunity to discuss it in detail and suggest any additions or corrections they thought advisable.

I am dropping you this line just in case Tom has been out of town all this time and my letter has been lying around unopened. I hope that you have taken time out to work on it and can ship a copy of it to me right away via air-mail

Would you let me hear from you right away as to how we stand with this document so that I can inform the P.C.

Comradely yours

Ross Dowson

Dear Comrade Reg; August 8th 1946

I have finally had the opportunity to answer some of the points raised in your last few letters. Also find enclosed a couple of receipts for the money that you have mailed into the N.O. lately.

No doubt by now everyone has received a copy of the second internal bulletin. Despite a few bad typographical errors I think that it is a well planned bulletin and will go a long way to clear up some of the confusion and some of the problems that confront the various groups. It would appear that the Van influence has pretty well expended itself but this will drive the final nail into its coffin.

Just a few words about the long delay. The material for the bulletin was for the most part in our hands long ago. The big problem in its production was technical. Toronto has the double task of supplying the manpower for its own activities which are considerable in relation to our forces and also carry out the work of the national office. We are extremely short of office help. We have only two persons in the entire group who can type. This stuff about the need for a proletarian base you see sometimes doesn't work out so hot. As it was I was compelled to do some of the typing of the stencils. Stencil typing by the hunt and peck system is a tough job. The two typists that we have are comparatively new to our movement and it is no easy job to pull them down to the office. Early in the sub campaign it became obvious that Toronto was going to up its quota considerable and we required all comrades to work on this although it was originally planned that I would be left comparatively free to work on the national jobs. We required our typists to do sub work, also type our sub lists out so we could transfer over to an addressograph system, to attend our weekly meetings, study class, etc. Subsequently holidays of the various comrades interfered but that is pretty well by the board now and I think we will be able to handle the next one O.K.

I was suprised to see the City wide conference enquire if steps are being taken for a pre-convention bulletin. The bulletin we are now publishing is a pre-convention bulletin as was stated in the first issue. The next bulletin has already been partially planned. It will include besides any contributions from individual comrades and branches, the proposed constitution of the independent organization, a document on tasks and perspectives of the Canadian section. We are at present working on the second and hope to have it out in the 3rd bulletin in a couple of weeks. Would you please make this clear to all the comrades so that they can send any material they wish as soon as possible. We have been sending out to all branches as many copies of the U.S. bulletin as possible. We are of the opinion that this supplements ours to some extent...and will make up for the fact that we have neither the personnel nor time to cover all the problems and positions that will be necessary to discuss and make a decision on at the Convention.

In our letter to all the branches announcing the date of the Convention we raised the problem of financing delegates. To date we have had no word as to what aid will be necessary to ensure a good representation. I see that Tom is thinking of coming east via the box

cars. Is anyone free to come and will have neither the time nor is able to come via box car. We should have as good as representation as possible and if financial aid ~~will be~~ a decisive matter in any case the N.O. should be informed as soon as possible. Are we going to have any trade union delegates. What does it all look like? From correspondence I see that Tom is still in Vancouver. We are of the opinion that all our strength should remain in Vancouver for the inevitable repercussions that will arise from Lloyd's statement and to consolidate all the sympathy and support that he may get in the various clubs. It is important that all the delegates remain in Vancouver as late as possible to consolidate all the past years work. and pull everyone possible to the 4th International.

The Canadian minority referred to in the various international documents is the minority in the party to the south. As you no doubt recall they are prohibited from international affiliation by law so sometime ago they adopted our name. I have drawn to the attention of the I.S. the inevitable confusion that this now causes and have requested that the south be instructed to assume another name. At the world conference of the 4th held in April the National Committee mandated the IS to cast its vote on four questions which were in fundamental agreement with the position subsequently taken by the Canadian majority. Tom can give you further details if required. This situation will be probably rectified in future International documents.

I see from the D.C. minutes of June 30th that the P.C. statement on the IWA strike settlement and the position taken by our comrades in Vancouver was discussed. It would appear that there was general agreement in the D.C. that the P.C. statement "indicated a tendency to doctrinaire sectarianism on the question of tactics and strategy in the trade union field". From the minutes of the City wide conference it would appear that this question ~~was~~ not up for discussion having probably been shoved aside by all the other pressing business. We are of the opinion that this question should be raised at the next city wide meeting for discussion as it is an extremely interesting episode in our activities and contains important educational lessons. We are looking forward to receiving Tom's document ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ which ~~was mentioned~~ I understand he is drawing up on this question.

We were extremely interested to read your detailed report on the discussions that you had with the McKean group. The results merely confirm your previous opinion that these elements are quite far from accepting a revolutionary position. They never did make a principled break with the LPP but remain essentially Stalinists who missed the boat in their expectation that there would be a duplication of the Browder expulsion in the case of Buck. Not only have they failed to orient themselves internationally which of course is the key to a national orientation but they have failed miserably to announce a revolutionary policy for the Canadian working class ...continuing to mumble the hocus pocus Peoples Front, etc. I am personally of the opinion that we should be extremely cautious in any relationship that we may have with these elements. They are contaminated with all the filth of the past 13 years of Stalinist betrayal. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ McKean and his group are not raw inexperienced worker elements but former leaders who played a responsible role in all the zig-zags and crimes of the LPP-CP. Numerically they represent no force and present us with ~~no~~ field for recruitment. Yet their line and their political mask of appearing to be a Marxist group presents us with another obstacle.

in our path. On occasion it may be possible to work with them on specific questions in the trade unions but there can be no political collaboration with these supporters of the second imperialist world war.

We are interested to hear the results of your selected subscriber conference which we understand you held on July 26th.

Possibly Lloyd has shown the comrades the statement that he intends to present to the CCF Convention this week. What plans have been laid to back up his position in the various clubs? I think that it is now necessary for the Vancouver comrades to meet regularly in one group and really co-ordinate their activities to make the most effective use of all opportunities that will present themselves. I would appreciate details as to how you intend to conduct your campaign so that we can utilize Labor Challenge which is to be the rallying point to full advantage, in full or excerpts with comments and in all probability an editorial on the need for a revolutionary party based on a couple of the high-lights of the CCF Convention. The next issue which will go to press somewhere around August 26th leaves us only one month away from our own convention and, therefore, should carry the call for the founding convention of the Canadian revolutionary party. This issue will have to be planned in close consultation with you comrades and so we should be in touch with you play by play.

It appears that as we move closer and closer to a bolshevik organization that many of our weaker sisters are pulling away. Van, LeMesurier, Smith, etc. This of course was an inevitable development due to the very nature of the CCF and our necessarily circumscribed activity. But the exceedingly long and patient work of you comrades is paying off, for today in Vancouver we have the best knit and strongest group in our entire history.

Comradely yours,

Ross Dowson.

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This issue of the paper will carry Lloyds statement

Aug 10 1946

Dear Ellaline;

the very

We received ~~some~~ good news that some of the comrades went out the other night on a sub rally and managed to obtain with no trouble at all 6 new subs at the 50 cent sub rate. This ~~makes~~ makes me wonder what we could have done if we had only coordinated our efforts during the 3 month 25 cent offer. I suppose this is what you referred to in your last letter when you asked for the new sub cards. You had me worried for a little while. I thought that you had figured on opening up your three month campaign three months late. You know we have to coordinate our activities, concentrate our energies in order to get the most out of our small forces. After all that is one of the purposes of Bolshevik discipline and forms of organization. This idea which Reg sketches in his letter is first rate however. As soon as we get our renewals cleared away in Toronto we had planned on suggesting just such a plan as Reg outlined. The American comrades are now setting each comrades in a branch a quota in some cases 2 subs a month and holding a monthly sub mobilization for those comrades who do not manage to make their quota in day to day work. Right now however I am of the opinion that the renewal work which will be a considerable task in Vancouver is the immediate more pressing one. Particularly since we are coming out as an independent party this coming month and this will give us an opportunity to talk to these people who have been receiving the paper for a year now. We should take literature around with us and talk them into the party. The fact that they have failed to renew their subs is in our experience not a particularly bad omen. We have done more political work on these people than we have on anyone else in Canada. These are the elements who ~~WAXXWAXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ are ~~the~~ best prepared to understand the need for a revolutionary party and every attempt should be made to see them in the next month and a half. I am doubtful if we can carry out Reg's plan at the same time.

The printer was given the order for the sub cards some time ago but has been tied up for help. I am told that they will be off sometime next week ~~WAX~~, as soon as we get them we will ship you a few hundreds. I am enclosing a list of all the West Coast expired subs. I am sending them all to you as you will know who is closest to some of the smaller out of the way places and can forward ~~EX~~ them on the Prince Rupert etc. In the next week I will try to get a list of all active subs with their expiration number on them run off on the addressograph.

All the changes detailed in your letter of the 26th have been made. Comrade Morgan has not notified us of any change in address and the bundle is going to the old one still. Sometime ago you made enquiries about Alex MacCormack formerly of Bralorne now Port Alberni. This comrade wrote us a few letters and ordered a great deal of literature. He seemed to be a first rate type but never informed us that he moved and has never renewed his sub. We are shipping no bundles or individual copies into Port Alberni.

The American comrades have just informed us of some addresses

that should be checked up on. The writer of a letter to the Militant recently is John Meyers 653 West 16th St. North Vancouver. He has just moved however to Marilynne Cafe, Hotel Plaza, Kamloops, B.C. Another subscriber to the Militant J.G. Rall 1499 W. 8th Ave., Vancouver has moved to Ladysmith, Vancouver Island. Neither of these people to the best of our knowledge have ever subscribed to the Challenge.

I wonder if you would take up the question of increasing the bundle order in Vancouver with the comrades as soon as possible. I think that the group should at least double present bundles for the next 4 or 5 issues. It is necessary that we immediately begin to identify ourselves with L.C. openly and do some mass distributions at the shipyards, paper plants etc. I suppose you would need a thousand copies for one distribution at the New Westminster shingle plant. We should take it into the clubs also. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ At some of these plants two comrades could distribute 800 in about ten minutes when the shifts change. It is excellent propaganda.

Would you get in touch with Reg and the comrades and see what they think of holding a Trotsky Memorial meeting. This would be a good start for Labor Challenge Club. The date of the old mans assassination was August 21st. We are holding a meeting in Toronto and this will give you an excellent opportunity to identify yourself with Trotskyism, the Fourth International and explain the need for an independent revolutionary party. We could get a Hall that will hold 50 to 100 anyway, advertize it in the daily press, I think it would be a good idea but we will have to get to work on it right away. I am sure that Reg and Brad ~~666~~ could do an excellent job on this subject. Cannon's pamphlet in Memory of The Old Man has some excellent material and then we could analyse the present world situation, the CCF? LPP and the need for a revolutionary party based on the doctrines of Marx Lenin and TROTSKY.

Would you let us know what action is taken on the bundles and Trotsky meeting right away. We go to press this Wednesday next at the latest so we might be able to get an add in the paper.

Warmest regards

Ross Dowson

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It is now Friday afternoon and we have just received enough papers from the printer to get the bundles out.

I sent an airmail letter to you on the 10th and was hoping to hear what had been the decision as to increasing the bundle for the next few issues. You have probably heard that we have published in this issue a statement by Lloyd calling for a revolutionary program and a revolutionary party. He has submitted this lengthy and I think excellent document in the form of a statement which he had intended to give at the convention and was prevented along with a letter to L.C. asking us to publish it. The Trotsky memorial article is likewise written to the problems that are now facing CCF and the need for a revolutionary party. Gardiner's statement in the House that the CCF were just impatient liberals and the numerous rumours that Coldwell might be next Liberal leader are all creating a great interest and creating a favourable background for Lloyd's statement.

In our opinion it is most important that this issue get into as many BC-CCFers hands as possible. We should cover any CCF list we may have on hand, all the clubs that we can, and any CCF meeting that may be held. The issue has become ~~XX~~ of such wide interest that we should also cover any plants we can, particularly where Lloyd may be known, the sawmills etc. These factories can be best covered when the men come off shift but of course we should cover any CCF affairs first. I understand Lloyd is going to release his statement to the press who might under these circumstances say a few words about it.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ This is the first issue where we have ~~FULLY~~ come out flat footed for an independent party. There are only going to be one more issue before we issue the convention call in L.C. We have got to explain ourselves and do some spade work. We are of the opinion that the situation is such that the Vancouver comrades must raise their bundle order and get the paper out to more BC workers. I was originally of the opinion that the Vancouver bundle should be at least a thousand for this issue. However we have not yet heard from you and the decision must be made now. We are sending off in the mail tonight 500 copies of the paper. This is only 300 more than usual and we are sure you will agree on the importance of raising our voices to more workers with this issue.

We are going to mail copies to all of the old expired list of L.C. readers from here.

all the best

Room

19
August 10 1946

Dear Comrade White;

I would like to thank you very much for your book order and your exceedingly prompt payments. I have broekn down your payments as follows;

July 2	6.00	8 subs	2.00
July 22	6.00	Books	5.95
		sustaining	4.05
	12.00		
			12.00

The subs that you have sent in during the campaign have been credited to the Vancouver group on the scoreboard. Unfortunatley the Vancouver comrades ~~failed~~ on the job due to several factors some of which were beyond our control. Even though we failed to meet our desired objective the campaign was no mean achievement for our group. L.C. has a considerable circulation for a paper of its type and the length of time that we have been publishing it. Once its orientation becomes more clarified with the announcement of a independant Canadian party of the Fourth International we expect that it will go much higher. All told, the sub campaign, our successful financial campaign of last fall and the excellent support that we have received in many out of the way points and the solid groups that we have built in Toronto, Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Etc. the future of the Canadian party looks bright. We can unfurl the banner of the Fourth International for the Canadian workers with the greatest confidence.

Is it at all possible for you to get as far east as Toronto for our Convention next month? I suppose the strike has been quite a drain on your finances, which ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ as with all workers do not permit much galavanting around the country. However I think that it would be a very good idea for you when next in Vancouver to have a talk with the comrades there if you are able to come in as far as the question of not having to work is concerned. If it remained only a matter of funds it is possible that we may be able to see our way clear to raise sufficient for the trip. I can assure you that the convention will be an exceedingly important education for you and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ would certainly like to have as large a representation as possible.

While you made no mention of it in your last letter I suppose you received the book catalogues alright. Kerr publishers sell material to unions at almost as good a rate as they do to publishers agents and I think that it would be just as cheap to buy direct. We do not carry a stock of their books on hand as we cannot afford to tie up much money in stock. I believe you have a pretty good selection of Pioneer books but there are two that have recently come out that I think would be very good for trade union ~~XXXX~~ libraries. The American party published a small pamphlet sometime ago called Jobs for All. which is a simple presentation of some of our most important transitional demands. Veterans and Labor would also be very good for the

library. These are both small pamphlets that sell at 15 and 10 cents each.

There is very little in the Eastern press about the B.C. strike situation aside from the very fine demonstration outside the Vancouver Southam paper. It would appear from Eastern papers however that the B.C. War Labor Boards are about to change the pattern of strike settlements from the LWA 15 cent gain to put it in line with Gordon and Michell's 10 cent ceiling. If they dare to do so there is no question that the Miners and shipyard workers and for that matter all B.C. Labor will be up in arms. I wonder if it is not possible for you to write a short letter into L.C. along the above lines, the reception that such a move will get, etc or on some other question related to the situation perhaps in your own strike.

I am glad you enjoyed the copy of the Transitional Program that I sent on a hunch. I think that we can always read and reread that pamphlet. It is the most precise and clear exposition of the problems that confront our movement and the flexibility of our ideas. I see that even Millard has picked up a variation of our sliding scale demand. Of course he has divorced it of its revolutionary character but the fact that this reactionary bureaucrat took it up and the wide support it has attained is proof of the great power of our program. When I was in the army I made great use of the demands and obtained a great deal of support from the ~~boys~~. I think that you will find ~~that~~ the pamphlet a powerful guide in your trade union work and our transitional program an open sesame to the workers particularly in this period of ferment. Our program is so clear, understandable, a complete bridge from the political inexperience of the Canadian workers to revolutionary action.

I do not suppose that you have heard from Paddy yet. He has told me that he intends to write but we are keeping him quite busy here. He is at present working in Massey Harris with 4 other comrades that we have concentrated in that plant. We are in the pioneer stage of building a fraction and already in the short time we have been there have met with considerable success. Paddy is doing a top rate job and we expect to give the Stalinists who are in control of that outfit a run for their money.

We have been following your reports on the situation in Britannia Beach with great interest. There is little information about the strike in the press out this way and the editor has asked me to see if you could not ~~write~~ up a short item on the strike. It should be of an editorialized character as we have little room in our paper for straight news items. Our date lines are approximately the 10th and 15th of each month. It need not be a perfectly rounded off polished article but should have the basic news and an ~~XXXX~~ analysis or interpretation of the situation.

Comradely yours

Ross Dowson

August 20, 1946.

Dear Lloyd:

We were glad to hear from Reg. that you were successful in being elected as a delegate from the IWA to the CCL convention. We are looking forward to seeing you and as many other of the Vancouver comrades ~~here~~ as possible here next month.

I am enclosing a clipping from the Stalinist Tribune on the CCF convention for your information. The deadline for your article on the convention is August the 26th. We intend to also publish in the same issue (September) a call by the Editors for the convention in Toronto on ~~2~~ September 28th to found the Canadian party of the Fourth International.

Here are a couple of points I think your article on the CCF Convention should hit on in the process of telling the story of what took place. From the press (capitalist and CCF) I gather that Coldwell spoke against the Veto In UNO--this openly aligns the CCF up with support of the foreign policy of the Canadian bourgeoisie as a junior partner in the Anglo-American bloc against the Soviet Union and as a supporter of the preparations for World War III against the USSR. I also recall a statement by Angus MacINNis's wife about the Labor Party--something to the ~~effect~~ effect that if the Br.L.P. goes down this will be the end of the CCF. We should hit this hard showing the tie-up between the two reformist parties of the "imperialist socialists" and the truth of her statement. I don't recall the resolutions on a socialist international but we might attack the idea of the Br. Commonwealth Labor Party Conference as the "white man's international"...Indians, Arabs, Africans excluded.

As we are breaking with the CCF this will be a very important article for us and it should not be too short, so at our editorial meeting to-night we decided to leave room for approximately seven triple spaced pages of copy (copy should be on pages as big as this one).

Anxiously awaiting news of repercussions of your fight for principles of revolutionary Marxism at Regina in the CCF in B.C. From the CCF News I gather your Trade Union Committee meets on Sunday, let us know what happens. Perhaps, ~~if~~ if your group is expelled, Reg or Tom should write an article on the expulsion for this issue if it takes place before the deadline.

Comradely yours,

Murray Dowson.

August 24 1946

Dear Tom; *(Brooklyn?)*

I had intended to write you prior to this but got tied up with other work such as going to Hamilton to distribute Labor Challenge on the picket line, etc. Since we are going to press in a couple of days I will take up a couple of items which I suppose should be raised in Correspondence with Reg or Ellaline. Would you forward the information on. I won't have time to write them individually.

Lee Houtman 336 East 28th Ave Vancouver wrote into the office this month asking for any lists of literature we might have ~~and~~ a sub to L.C. and any additional information. From his letter someone should go around to see him right away.

The Militant and F.I. inform us that they are unable to deliver for some reason or another a combination sub for a Mrs Wyman 135 West 11 Avenue, Vancouver. Could this be checked into so I could tell them what to do. Perhaps she has moved or something.

I received Ellaline's letter in reply to my suggestion that the bundle order be increased for the next few issues since we are now carrying the fight to the CCF. Unfortunately she did not reply to ~~me~~ the first letter raising the question until we were already faced with the problem as to how many we should send out of the mid August issue. As you noticed we sent out 500 (that is 300 extra) I hope you were able to carry out a distribution alright. We did our bit in the distribution of Lloyd's statement by covering all the Vancouver expired subs which we figured was probably a fairly good CCF list. In her August 17 issue Ellaline failed to instruct us as to the number required of the September issue. Would you have her write immediately as we will be mailing it this Friday at the latest if all goes well with the printer. This coming issue should get as big a circulation as possible as we are publishing the Convention call to organize a new party. Is it not possible to do a couple of factory distributions. If it is a matter of time and forces I am of the opinion that we can better afford to drop sub work and renewal work for a month in order to put the paper into worker's hands at factory gates. I was under the impression that there was a large saw mill in New Westminster or Fraser Arm where we could distribute several hundred papers at one blow. If not there are no doubt many other places employing a few hundred workers. Factory distribution is fast (about 15 minutes) requires only one or perhaps two persons and puts the paper ~~where~~ where we want it.

Our perspective ~~compels~~ compels us to be absolutely identified with Labor Challenge and the fight we are waging requires us to use it and spread it around more than ever before.

Would you ask Reg to send us any minutes of meetings that have been held in the last period. Ellaline mentioned that she would drop us a letter on some meeting held on August 17 but we have not received any news as I type this. We are exceedingly anxious to know what has been taking place and what kind of support we have been rallying. I understand Lloyd met the constituency members August 23rd....and the Trade Union Committee conference is tomorrow the 25th.

I can see that with all this going on that you probably would have little time for a Trotsky meeting although it would have been an excellent affair for us if we had been able to hold it. The Toronto meeting was very well attended, as a matter of fact we did not have enough seats. Bill Gray from Buffalo gave the talk.

Could you write up the Sunday trade union conference for this issue of the paper. If it leaves Sunday night or Monday morning at the latest there will still be time. I hope that Lloyd has written up the CCF convention. This is a must article for this issue and we have not yet received it.

We are sorry to see the group dwindle a bit but this was inevitable as we drew it closer to the building of a bolshevik party. But we have only lost people that we never really ever had. Lefty's leaving for Kamloops is quite a blow to us however. George gave us a very good report of this comrade. Certainly every effort should be made to prevent New from going to Alberta. At our present stage of development these one or two comrades are extremely important to us and the development of the Vancouver party.

Apparently Byron Johnson had got wind of some revolutionary party that someone was going to build based on the trade unions. I assume this is the handiwork of Lamont and coy that you mentioned in one of your letters. Are they the persons that the Schatmanites were trying to get down to Seattle to hear Goldman? It would be unfortunate if Shachtman was able to build up some kind of outfit in opposition to us in Vancouver. But I am doubtful if even he could build an outfit out of Van, Lamont, etc. The comrades should consider their relationship with these people and anyone that they may have around them very cautiously. Our differences with these people must be made obvious to any and all their supporters to be of a deep and serious political nature and not involving any past personal differences. Lamont's position on the last war can be forgiven, not forgotten, if he would take a correct position of the coming war. We must be careful to not appear to be grudge politicians. If any of them are opposed to defence of the S.U. as being no longer a worker's state we should not let them use this to justify the erection of an opponent party. I personally am confident that we could assimilate ~~XXXX~~ persons with this position. But on the war, the Russian revolution, the need for a Bolshevik party, UNO etc....we must make these the issues. and here we must be uncompromising. I have heard about Lamont's position on Uno and in the last bulletin I became familiar with Van...they are apparently ~~XXXX~~ hopeless cases but it is possible that they may attract a few good elements around them. Have you given Van a copy of the second internal bulletin? I understand the group dropped him but I think it would be a good idea to give him a copy anyway to let him know where he stands with us on Stalinism equals Bolshevism, etc. You of course know this Stanton better than we do but I am of the opinion that we can well afford to have a long and serious discussion with this fellow whom I gather is quite intelligent and very serious. He certainly is no threat to us..we have everything to win and nothing to lose.

We have yet to hear what the comrade's opinions were on the second internal bulletin. The next bulletin which will include a proposed constitution and a document on tasks and perspectives will be out in the next two weeks if we get the breaks. Preparations are going on ahead for the convention. George is coming in a week previously. We haven't heard from Angus yet

We were glad to hear that Lloyd made it but are very anxious to know how you are fixed to come and any other of the Vancouver comrades. Sometime ago we sent out the letter and suggested that the groups inform us immediately if financial help will be necessary to ensure good representation. We will have ~~OK~~ to be informed right away if it will be necessary to provide financial help. Of course you have to come.

The P.C. is anxious to know how the struggle in the CCF in developing and would appreciate it if in the next two weeks or so you could keep us well informed by mail as the fight develops. We would also like as many articles as possible on the situation for you know nothing is going to happen anywhere else than B.C. and the paper if it is well tuned to the struggle ~~and~~ and questions related to it can play a tremendous organizational role for the Vancouver branch. Wish we were there to give you a hand. We are all looking forward to seeing you next month.

Warmest regards

Ross.

August 28 1946

Dear Reg; (Bullock)

We received your article on the proceedings of the CCF Trade Union Committee and it will appear in a prominent place this coming issue of the paper. Unfortunately we have had a little difficulty as we failed to get two items that we had been assured of which had to go into the paper. One of our Toronto comrades was unable at the last moment to do his assignment. We have not received Lloyd's long promised article on the CCF Convention and we have been forced to write it also; the result has been that Murray and I had to take these assignments at the last moment so that the printer informs us today (Wednesday afternoon) that he will not be able to run off this issue before the coming week-end. They do not work on Saturday so we will not be off the presses until Tuesday so that once more we have fallen behind. If there are any last minute important developments perhaps you could forward them right away and with luck we might be able to squeeze them in this issue.

We are quite proud of the job you did at the Trade Union Conference. From your report everything seems to be going along smoothly and. it is possible that we might get some support from heretofore unexpected places. The Convention is a good backdrop for our struggle as is also the razzing the CCF is getting from the Conservatives and Liberals about their being only "liberals in a hurry." Their role in the steel strike will no doubt cause much doubt in the minds of the best trade union elements. On the whole our timing has proven to be first rate. I hope you will be able to give us almost day to day reports of the situation... whatever you can do along this line would be appreciated.

We are looking forward for this extremely large delegation that Vancouver will be sending. It is much better than we had even hoped for and will enable us to clear up the many problems that we are not able to deal satisfactorily with by mail. The Toronto comrades have already laid plans for a social on the Saturday night of the Convention. Hope you can make it and are successful in the election fight. We would also appreciate anything you can do to urge Angus to come down. We have written him and expressed the great importance of this but a few words from the Vancouver comrades might be of help to aid him see his way clear to come down.

So far your strategy as outlined in your letter has called the shot. There is little doubt that your withdrawal from the CCF at the trade union conference will have repercussions not only in the clubs where we have comrades but the break is so extensive and contains such prominent persons that it will come before the Provincial Committee. I think that it would be a good idea for Ruth and Elalline to stick it out and carry the battle into there. Have we been giving press releases of the developments to the daily papers? This is an excellent opportunity to popularize our own comrades and if lucky a bit of our program. I think that the papers would take up such a development as there is quite a bit of interest in the CCF and the boss press always likes to publicize splits and disagreements in its opponent organizations. It is just possible that Lloyd might get an interview where he could express his opinions in detail. What little he was able to do at Regina got mentioned in the capitalist press here in the East. I do not think we should hesitate to use the boss press even if they garble our position and regardless of their own

purposes in printing the news. They cannot help but give the impression that the split is a left-wing one. It is possible that it might put us in touch with some persons absolutely outside of our own fields of influence and it will certainly be good publicity for Lloyd. If nothing has been done along this line would you take it up at once with Tom and Lloyd as time is an important factor here.

I would like to take up a few of the questions that you raised as to the problems of calling the convention. You were quite right in thinking that the P.C. intended to announce the date and place of the convention in this coming issue of the paper. We are sorry that you did not raise objections such as you outline in your letter previous as we had already drawn up the statement when we received your letter. You will be pleased to know that we have changed the statement to fall in line with the Vancouver opinion... not that we agree with the various reasons advanced but since we had no time left to start up a correspondence on the matter and come to a common agreement we have decided to delete time and place at your request. We are of the opinion that it would be a great mistake to not announce the calling of the convention with time and place. This and this alone gives our break an organizational character. As it now stands as our various comrades break away there is going to be a big gap until we build the group... that you are breaking away and as you say "there will be a slight pause for an evaluation of our forces and the effect created. Then we intend to proceed to consolidate forces and do some quiet recruiting pending the announced successful launching of the Canadian section of the 4th." What is the purpose of this lag, what value does it serve? It is a break in the continuity of our struggle. We have and are carrying out a struggle for a revolutionary program, we call for workers to break with the CCF as it will not be the instrument of this program... but where are we taking them. We have to tell any interested person that wait, be patient for a little while and then the instrument will arise. We are telling him that it is not necessary that he go about building or forming this party; that is a necessity, but that for some reason he should wait and this party will appear all ready-made for him. How can we explain this to him?

But if we issue a call for a convention and give time and place this gives our break from the CCF an organizational character... we can then immediately set to work for the very thing that we have fought for in the CCF. Then the whole struggle is comprehensible to any worker who agrees with us in the political struggle and the need for the movement. Why should we not do this? Two of the reasons that you give in your letter are roughly reasons of security. That if we give out this information agents of the state and undesirable elements of a screwball character might descend upon us. But if we gave time and place are we not going to be able to give any undesirable persons the cold shoulder? Of course we are. Let us suppose that the time and place was given for this contention call. Vancouver forms a group based around the program of Labor Challenge, and in agreement with the need of a Canadian revolutionary party. The whole question would be different if we had no paper all along and had no program. But Labor Challenge has a program and has consistently come out in full support of the 4th International. Any one who may come to us and we are not sure of his political ideas, we can show him what we already are. Why! We in Toronto have been functioning openly along this line for the past 8 months or more. Our program is our paper. People have come to us on the basis of our paper and our lectures ..they join us. It is remotely possible that we have an RCMPer in our ranks. This danger always exists and always

will but we can not hold back the political development of the party because of this danger. We may possibly get a few screwballs down to our meetings and who might even possibly want to join our group. We do not have to accept him into the group if we do not desire to do so. It is the opinion of the P.C. that the Vancouver comrades should immediately form a Labor Challenge club. We are the base of the club. In Vancouver we have a first rate and politically experienced base for it. When we split we tell people who support our struggle to join our club. We can eliminate those that we do not desire. The club starts carrying on basic party tasks even before the party is formally organized. It meets and lays plans to send its delegates to Toronto who will return and report all the decisions and constitute the club as a party branch.

We are of the opinion that it is necessary that this break be given as wide as possible publicity and that we can only effectively carry on the struggle by calling for the formation of a Labor Challenge club and setting it up immediately. The Labor Challenge Club will be the first step in the formation of the party. In order to carry on this fight effectively we feel that we must not only announce the formation of the club but also announce the Convention. If we cannot announce the time and place we cannot announce the Convention and the call must remain in the same old character of the need for an independent party. We are now past this stage in the fight and must lay the ground structure for the party. This must be done openly. In your letter in which you advocate a behind doors convention you remark that this is in line with “customary technique of all illegal organizations.” But we are not an illegal organization and we do not intend to function as one. We have been conducting activities in a semi-illegal manner because of our relationship with the CCF and not the bourgeois state. The CCF prohibited us from being members of any other political organization. But we are not now bound by this restriction as we have broken with the CCF.

I think that this is the only manner in which we can honestly carry on the fight. As for the third point, that our opponents will accuse as of using the facilities of the trade unions for our own political purposes. I do not see how they can do so. Our comrades will have attended the convention of the CCL, taken their place on the floor as everyone else and represented their locals. All they did besides that was to stay in Toronto an extra four days—for what purpose? To build a revolutionary party, to have a drunken spree, to sight see. So what. I do not see how anyone can make any political capital of this or will dare to even raise the matter. If they dare we can make fools out of them and even possibly make a little political capital for the party.

In this issue our statement remarks that a convention must be called as soon as possible to found the revolutionary party. The P.C. had. intended to announce the date but has postponed doing so until we can thrash this matter out. We want to publish the date next issue. It is therefore necessary that this matter be taken up with the Vancouver comrades at once so we can receive your opinion and carry on any further necessary correspondence before September 8th. We must go to press early as we want to clear the boards for the convention.

It is also necessary as this letter has proven that we know exactly how the fight is progressing and how you comrades intend to carry it out so that we do not run afoul of one another's plans again as we almost did this time.

There were a few secondary matters that I had intended to take up but I want to get this letter off right away so we can come to agreement on the above matters as soon as possible.

Warmest regards

Ross

August 28 1946

F.G. Bonn
Box 72
Hammond, B.C.

Dear Comrade;

For some time now you have had a subscription to Labor Challenge. A mutual friend has informed us that you are not just a run of the mill subscriber to our paper but an enthusiastic supporter of its policies.

We understand that you are in contact with large numbers of industrial workers. We are extremely anxious to widen the circle of our readers and spread the great message of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky. We wonder if it is not possible for you to aid us in this vital task. Many of our supporters take a small bundle of each issue to spread among their shopmates and pick up subscriptions. Our rates for bundle orders are two cents a copy.

We would appreciate any aid you could give us in spreading the message of revolutionary marxism and would be pleased to handle a small bundle order on your account.

Fraternally yours

Ross Dowson

Sept 5 1946

Dear Tom;

(-1)
Bradley

We received Reg's letter this morning enclosing the very good press release that you got in the Vancouver papers. Apparently the Canada Press picked it up and there is no doubt that even though in a garbled form it gave us some excellent publicity. In Toronto it appeared in two papers..the only morning paper the Globe and Mail and in the Evening Telegram. The Stalino-Liberal paper the Star did not carry it. Murray immediately submitted a letter of clarification on the supporters club to both papers. The Globe and Mail published the letter in full along with a statement from Lewis. The Telegram will not be out till this afternoon. I thought that the comrades would be interested in seeing the results of the good work so am sending all the clipping along.

Well, the long, patient and at times no doubt trying work of the last couple of years is paying off. I gather from a previous letter of Reg's that it is possible that we may bring some elements along with us whom we had never before expected. I understand that the North Vancouver is either going to fall completely in our grasp or at any rate disappear as a CCF club. It would be a great feather in our cap if we could take the club and all its effects including their headquarters etc. How is it situated.... is it far from downtown on the other side of the Bay? I see that the comrades were discussing a headquarters...we will have to get one there even if it only amounts to a pigeon hole. Of course the big question will be money. As you no doubt must be aware we are close to scraping the bottom again. We have financed ourselves to the convention as we had only hoped to do..the convention will discuss this matter in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ detail

The formation of the L.C. Supporters club is a real achievement. Have we planned any meetings? It would be a good idea to arrange a meeting—a public one with you and Lloyd listed as speakers explaining the reason for the split away and the need for a revolutionary party. Could we get a CCF mailing list..Ellaline has a complete list of all subscribers in the area to L.C. The public meeting would give us some publicity and an opportunity to explain our position in greater detail to the many persons who no doubt are interested..might give us some contact with good elements outside the CCF. With an ad in the paper, some leaflets I don't doubt for a moment that we would get 100 people anyway. The cost would be only around 25 dollars. If the group is at present short of funds we would be willing to forward it.

Next week at our regular meeting we will be making arrangements for handling all visiting comrades. We are planning a social affair for the Saturday of the 28th and we will discuss holding a public meeting which would be attractive to CCL delegates that we might be able to ~~XXXX~~ work on.

There are many matters that we could discuss but I think that we will be able to deal with them when we see you in a couple of weeks. The P.C. will be meeting in a few days and will discuss your suggestions as to procedure to be followed at the Convention. See you shortly

comradely

ross

628— East 4th St.,
North Vancouver, B.C.
September 1st/46

Editor, Vancouver ~~News Herald~~

We, the undersigned, former officers of the CCF Trade Union C'ttee, desire to announce our disassociation from that body; further, that we have resigned from all other offices and membership in the CCF. We were impelled to take this step for the following principled reasons:

The general policies of the CCF are in such contradiction to the needs of the workers and so divorced from reality that it requires an act of political prostitution to condone them or fail to expose them.

Internationally, the CCF officially supports the idea of the "United Nations" - deliberately failing to analyze the true nature and character of this set-up. The intentional suppression of critical analysis of this body we cannot condone.

In national affairs, i.e. those which concern Canadian workers immediately, the effect of the actions of the CCF leadership is to seal the workers within capitalist structural forms and hamper the struggle of organized workers to better their lot. Participation in the deliberations of the Federal Government's "Standing Committee on Industrial ~~Disputes~~ Relations" is a case in point; the statements and recommendations of CCF members, recorded in the transcript of the proceedings of that body - and arising therefrom, indicate the intent of those Members to try and blunt the striking edge of the struggles of the workers.

The expedients adopted within the CCF to suppress free development of policy and criticism are such that no hope remains of off-setting opportunistic careerism or re-directing faulty policies. Therefore, to retain membership under these circumstances and remain silenced would, in effect, be to condone those actions and policies which can be demonstrated as leading to the eventual open betrayal of the best interests of Canadian workers.

In view of the foregoing we have discontinued membership in the CCF. Together with many other former members of the CCF who are readers of the "Labor Challenge," we have founded a "Labor Challenge Supporter's Club." We understand that similar units have come into being in several sections of the country. We are urging upon the editors of that journal the desirability of convening a national conference of these bodies and other unattached supporters for the purpose of forging a revolutionary party based upon the principles and policies editorially supported by the "Challenge."

Trusting that you will afford us space in your columns for this statement,

R.W.Bullock

Lloyd Whalen

T. Bradley

E 4-1946-Van

Edalene - Sect of Club LC
is alternate Provincial Council
member for the CCF of Vancouver
Centre

Ruth recently elected Prov Council
Member for N Vancouver

Sept 14, 1946



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TELEGRAPHS

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CHALLENGE CLUB FIRMLY ESTABLISHED STOP MANY ENQUIRIES FROM
DISAFFECTED MEMBERS WHO ARE FED UP STOP RUTH BULLOCK CCF
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBER FROM NORTH VANCOUVER HAS RESIGNED
ON PRINCIPAL STOP NUMBER OF THER MEMBERS HAVE DONE SAME AND
CONTACTED US STOP BACKFIRE IN NORTH VANCOUVER LETTER FOLLOW=

=R W BULLOCK

Sept 13 1946

Dear Ellaline;

Your veritable storm of activity makes the rest of the branches look pretty sick. You will have to tell us how you do your sub work. How you get 1.00 subs from door to door work ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. I thought that they might be some of the work on the renewal lists but I checked some of them and find they are not. We thought it possible to only get 50 cent subs from this kind of work. The little enclosure with the paper that you apparently distribute before calling is first rate. Do you distribute the paper a few days before you call or do you call with paper in hand? Have you tried both...do you find that the enclosed letter does the trick. We distributed in areas prior to canvassing and found that the great majority never saw the paper even though it was put in the door so we gave it up and worked the area cold and seemed to get as good results. We never thought of the letter that you enclose

Everyone is pleased to see that the comrades are going ahead with plans for factory distributions. While its immediate ~~WKXX~~ results will no doubt be negligible it will pay off in the long run and is well worth the small outlay and trouble of handling the distribution. We have done a great many in Toronto and have put our ideas fairly well on the map despite our limited forces and activities. During our sub work we met a few ~~XX~~ persons who said they had seen our paper at their factory. Between factory and CCF and LPP meetings we distribute about 800 copies an issue in Toronto. You will read a report of an LPP meeting distribution which we had last week and proved very interesting. We did two LPP distributions with this issue. These can only be done with powerful forces to protect the distributors. The Stalinists are a little confused still but they will perk out of that ~~XXXX~~. There is no doubt in my mind that we would have had a fight but they were not sure of our numbers and one of the comrades told them off and they were a little puzzled just what to do. That situation will not last for long however. We would have preferred to handle a few CCF meetings but there were none. The recent meetings they have been holding were pretty poor...mostly old men and women and quite hostile. But if they hold any in the next period we will cover them because of the split that we have engineered and the wide publicity that it received in the Toronto press. The Telegram printed the full Sun story on the 10th and the Ontario CCF News has been compelled to give us a play because of the interest it has aroused. I am enclosing a copy of their article which is surprisingly good for us. I am enclosing the whole page as I think that their line on the steel strike will amaze you.

We are glad to see that the bundle situation is going to be straightened up a bit. We have changed Alex Fergusson's address as instructed and have also ceased Comrade Morgan's bundle awaiting further instructions from you. All the subs that came in on August 31 received the September issue. We have also sent the 20 copies direct to Mungeam News in New Westminster but have not billed him. We are wondering if it is not possible for the Vancouver comrades to handle

Sept 14 1946

Dear Tom;

Bradley?

Lloyd Phelan

Just a short note on a couple of questions that should be dealt with before everyone comes East.

Byron Johnson and also Angus Macphee in several of their letters in the past year have referred to a Mrs Burgoyne of Victoria. I believe George met her at the Convention...she is the one that was so favourably impressed by Laobr Challenge. I understand that she is an active trade unionists and anti-Stalinist and fed up with the CCF. From Angus we have heard that she has already or is contemplating in leaving the CCF..fed up with its collaborationist policies. Angus suggests that we invite her to the Convention. All reports that we have heard lead us to believe that she is very close to us and would be a great asset if won over. No doubt the Vancouver comrades know her intimately. Since this is the case we have decided not to ask her to come to the convention but to leave this matter in your hands.

Could anyone take the time off to go over to see her. It would probably be the making of a Victoria branch if we could swing her over. If she is at all prepared to come East ~~why~~ it would be a good idea to urge her to do so as we will be in a good position to work on her here. Now of course this is not probably possible for her to do but the split of the Vancouver comrades has no doubt raised many important questions in her mind and in my opinion every attempt should be made to see her.

I have just come to the realization that the convention (CCL) is only a week away so I am sending this to Lloyd to see if anything can be done before everyone leaves to come East. Perhaps Ellaline could do the job of going over to see her.

There was another point that I had intended to take up re-arranging a meeting but I see that it is now too late

We will be able to see about all these details at the convention

Comradely yours

Ross Dowson

Sept 18 1946)

Bill

Dear Comrade/White;

We are very sorry to hear that ~~XX~~ you will not be able to be with us for the launching of the Canadian party. I am sure you are looking forward to this great event just as eagerly as we are. However we are still a very poor organization, financially that is, as there are none richer politically, and the vast stretches of Canada present a great problem to us. We can only agree with you that the important position that you have in the strike ~~XXXXXX~~ now in progress is also such that you should remain at your post. While it is true that Murphy and other are carrying on all negotiations the conduct and role of local leadership is also of great importance to the future of the union and particularly to future possibilities of a powerful branch of the party in that locality. One of our most important tasks is to inspire the workers with confidence in our leadership and to attract the most advanced elements to the party. The strikers could only look upon your ditching the chairmanship of the strike committees as a betrayal.

Thanks for your interesting letter of August 21st. We could certainly use more of them as they add a new literary style to the paper ~~XXXX~~. They are a part of the paper which everyone reads and can deal with smaller items which do not fit in very well anywhere else in the paper. If you have any more, why send them in. I hope that we did not muck it up too much on you. We have not published your statement yet as we are holding it for some more developments that will be taking place in the next week. It will appear or at least parts of it in the next issue. I see that the break got very fine publicity from the Sun. The Canadian Press picked up the story and spread it across Canada. All the Toronto papers carried a version of the story and one of them published a letter of oursin explanation. The Ontario CCF News and the Saskatchewan Commonwealth published quite a long release which is almost as good as if we has written it. We intend to try to follow it up with a release on further breaks. I see that the B.C. CCF News has kept quiet about it all except for the factual report and the letters obviously written at the editors request. Eve Smiths letter was quite good and no doubt Byron Johnson will be replying next week with a scortcher.

Very glad to hear that you are gathering a bit of a group around you. I hope that the Vancouver comrades are of help to you in this work as it is very difficult for us to do much by mail at this end. Have you used up those copies of Trade Union Problems that you ordered. There is another very good pamphlet out called Jobs for All which should be of use to beginners. Also Fascism and Big Business. We have extra copies of Study Class material here which we would be only to pleased to send you. Possibly you can arrange to hold a class this coming Fall. Do not hesitate to ask any aid of us ~~XXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I will try to get you a copy of the Convention reports that you want. I am doubtful if we can obtain one on the IUMMW as I am none too sure that we had a delegate there. I did not see any report in the Militant on this convention ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ but I will write to the U.S. and see if a report can be obtained. With regards to the CCL Convention. I will ask the boys to pay particular attention to the IUMMW delegates. WE will have one of them write up a story on the convention

and have him send you a letter enclosing this and any other notes that may consider would be of value to you . It would be a good idea if the Vancouver comrades arranged for a meeting were the comrades could report on the CCL convention to the membership. I understand that you are none too far from Vancouver. he

I will write you shortly after the convention and outline some of the highlights. Enclosed is a list of books available. perhaps there are some new ones on it.

Comradely yours

Ross Dowson

October 8 1946

Lloyd Whalen

Dear Reg;

I will be writing you a long letter in the very next mail but I want to get this away immediately as time on this matter is very important.

When Muriel and Lloyd were here I suggested that we should arrange a mass meeting in Vancouver to announce the foundation of the party and urged that they should get in touch with Dan Roberts and invite him up to speak at it. I suggested that the program should have approximately three speakers, perhaps Lloyd and yourself and that a hall should be rented and ads be inserted in the daily papers. We have held such a meeting and had about 65 people in attendance. Tom Murray and I spoke with Paddy in the chair. All the comrades were very pleased with the results. Had many persons in attendance who were unknown to us, most were quite young also. The old ex-gang were not there. After we paid for the hall the publicity etc we turned up with profits ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ amounting to 8.00 and sold quite a bit of literature to boot.

I am of the opinion that it is most important that such a meeting be held if it has not already been done. I am sure that you could get out 100 people and you have the speakers there to handle it. Possibly Roberts would be unable to get there because of the elections. If we urged him strong enough I think we could get him and at any rate I think we could do the job without him.

I also suggested another idea for publicizing the party to left ward moving workers. Last November in celebration of the October Revolution we imported a film called From Tzar to Lenin. We rented a hall and borrowed a projector for free from the National Film Board. One of our own comrades knew how to operate the machine. We put ~~XXX~~ an ad in the paper and 120 people turned out. It was at this meeting we launched our campaign for 1000 dollars. We raised over 100 at the meeting through an appeal for funds. After the film one of the comrades gave an address on what has become of the October Revolution. I am enclosing all the details on the film. If we talked this matter over right away I think we would have no trouble booking it.

Just a few added words of advise if you decide to bring in the film. We cleared it through a customs broker with little difficulty. The meeting was free--if you charge admission there may be other complications. We got the film through customs as an educational film. Our operator was not as skilled as he thought and so that there is no hitch we would suggest that you try to get a professional operator.

This ~~XXXXXX~~ film idea will have to be acted on at once if we hope to get the film. I hope we can arrange the announcing of the party meeting. We would like to put an ad in L.C. for both of these meetings if you can get ~~XXX~~ them in. over

just a last word. If you write away for the film do not do so in the name of Labor Challenge as we lost their bill last time and delayed payment for several weeks and I dont think the name will be any sesame.

Comradely yours



October 10 1946

Dear Reg; (Bullock)

Received your letter which enclosed the minutes of the October 4th meeting. That meeting was a big step, a big move forward. We now have the organizational apparatus to operate as a revolutionary workers party. Meeting the Vancouver comrades who were able to get here and participate in the convention convinced all the comrades in Toronto and Montreal that we have the personnel also. There is no doubt that the next years' activity is going to be very productive for us, particularly in Vancouver.

It is very unfortunate that Bray did not come over with us. He would have been a great asset and to have taken over the N. Vancouver club a great feather in our cap. My impression is that despite the fact that we did not take over any clubs our withdrawal is going to be very demoralizing on many CCFers and is going to result in a couple of clubs collapsing. I gather that we were the guts of two or three clubs. Our break was clean and principled. Even the bureaucrats have had to handle us with respect referring to us as romanticists etc. For this reason I do not think that we have settled the score with a lot of CCFers in those clubs. I am of the opinion that we should attend their affairs, forums etc. put forward our ideas and attempt to recruit to the party. Separately we were the life of a couple of clubs together we will make their heads reel.

We were glad to see that some of you got down to the N.W. School. We received your report but as you noticed did not publish it. Murray and I were of the opinion that it is hardly material for the paper as it is of quite an internal character. I think that it might be a good idea to include it however in the internal bulletin... the issue following the convention report. Incidentally would you remind Muriel that I would like the transcriptions as soon as she has time to do them.

Also received your document on "Some Organizational Questions." We had already beaten you to the gun. The major part of the document outlines some very good ideas on a party constitution. As Lloyd probably told you we discussed a P.C. proposed constitution at the convention and adopted it with a few minor changes. We will include it with the convention report in the first bulletin. I have it already mimeographed and if this letter is not too long I will enclose a copy. Eventually we intend to publish in French and English a pamphlet which encloses our constitution and also Declaration of Principles which the Convention instructed the P.C. to prepare. This of course will be available for each new recruit and for the public.

I think that the constitution covers every point that you raised but educational work. There is no question that we should have an Educational Director. But I don't think we will be able to handle it for a while. The SWP has only just appointed a comrade to such work... W.F. Warde. Heretofore education has more or less been in the hands of the individual branch with the odd study guide appearing now and then. Comrade Warde is going to be spending full time on this work I understand and I think that we will be able and will have to hitch hike on their efforts for a while. I have just sent Whitney all the material we have on hand here. The branch executive might go over it with him and see what they think of it. I intend to write Warde very

shortly to see what plans they have and what material they intend to put out. I will also enquire if anything has ever been done along the lines of a reading guide.

The material I sent Bill is very good for study class work. In Toronto here we have two educational activities a week. We have an educational after every meeting of about one hour as our branch executive handles a lot of the business details and we are usually through business by 9 or 9:15. This educational is of an internal character dealing with problems of the party and questions that appear to be perplexing our own members. Here we try to break new comrades into the art of public speaking by giving them the class if possible. Sometimes a comrade will come down without having been able to prepare his talk. Then we have an informal educational. Comrades can write some question that has been puzzling them on a slip of paper and some advanced comrade takes the floor to lead a discussion and clarification on the problem. Then we have our weekly Sunday night forum. Usually we handle more current problems confronting the workers at this class. We hold them at our headquarters. They are formal as to procedure but after the speech a questions and answers (period) and a collection which I almost forgot and we break off to enjoy a cup of coffee and a few biscuits. We try to use comrades who are developing as chairman of these meetings. We hope to handle another class on the outskirts of town were we have most of our new subscribers sometime this fall.

We will have to try to hold public forums in Vancouver this fall. I do not know what the situation is for halls or whether you will be able to find the very necessary headquarters. Perhaps for the first while you will have to have only the occasional public meeting in a public hall... and be content to run a home study class until you can obtain a headquarters. Since we are only a propaganda group our educational work is exceedingly important. I think the problem of education is the most pressing one on our movement. Many of our comrades are new to the movement and we lack experienced educated lenders. We will have to develop them on the run. We would have liked to send a comrade to Vancouver to help in this work but no doubt Lloyd explained to you the situation here and the plans we have laid to help our Montreal comrades who likewise have great opportunities of growth and who must build a base under what we have or face the possibility of losing even that. Do not forget to send us ads for the paper to publicize any meetings you plan to hold.

Through an oversight on my part the P.C. did not discuss the report on the W.P. (Workers Party, USA) visit. My personal opinion is that this stuff about a labor party committee is a lot of bull-shit.

It looks to me as if they were up to feel out the possibilities of building a W.P. branch in Canada. Their approach was very good to find out if there was any dissention in our ranks over the break from the CCF and the formation of the party. They were not content to see you but saw McDonnell and wanted to see Lamont, Bray and so forth. If the SWP minority is on this committee if such exists they have broken party discipline. Adherence to such a committee is a political question which would have to be decided by the party. I do not believe that we would play around (with) such a committee either in Canada or in the States. The labor party must come from the trade unions and not from outside. We do not believe in these united fronts of politics but in united fronts of action. The Labor party will never be organized by these people or by

working in collaboration with them. I am convinced that this was all a ruse to see what the score was on the possibilities of building a W.P. branch. They will try to work on Lamont or anyone else. Their program is very elastic and they are dying to spread into Canada since they have so badly flopped in the United States. They live on our movement, on its discontents etc. I think that they must have realized that they were not going to get very far from your frigid reception. In a way it is not so good that we put them in touch with Bray but I do not think they will get far here either. It was a good idea to send a copy of the report to Dan Roberts who should know what is afoot in the Seattle branch. When George was here I remember him telling me that the Palmquists were great maneuverers. As to the formal position of the SWP on such a committee. Certainly it is a problem that goes before a branch for decision and no minority group would be permitted to break discipline on such a question. This idea is just another get rich quick scheme of the W.P. I am inclined to believe that the SWP would steer clear of these empty fronts and fight for the Labor Party in the trade unions. You might enquire from Dan further about this question. Has he replied to your report yet?

As to this fellow Eddy Newfield ...he is unknown to me but I will raise the matter at the next P.C. meeting which will be held in a week or so.

We are very anxious to hear how you make out with the financial campaign at your next meeting. At the last meeting of the Toronto branch 10 comrades made their pledges the rest apparently wanted to think it over till next meeting. These 10 pledged 235 dollars so it looks as if we will have no trouble raising half of our quota of 750 within the group.

Comradely yours

Ross Dowson

(handwritten PS) Enclosed is a clipping from Toronto morning paper for the information of comrades. They also announced the formation of the party over a Hamilton radio station. Next week's Time (US magazine) may have a story as I was talking to their reporter.

hh
Oct 2nd 1946

Dear Comrade Fergusson;

We received that sudden flurry of letters alright. All that delayed us from writing back were the convention ~~preparations~~ preparations and then the convention itself.

The convention was a great success. We have laid a firm foundation under us and everyone is confident that the next year will be a very fruitful one ~~XXXXXX~~ wont take up any of the details as Lloyd and Muriel will be reporting the whole affair to the branch in the next few days. Everyone was impressed by the Vancouver comrades and we are confident that the Vancouver branch has great prospects of immediate growth now that it has thrown off the CCF mantle. We have a big job ahead of us but we have the program and some exceptionally capable comrades who have extensive roots into the working class movement such as Lloyd, etc.

I have entered all the subs you sent in and entered the corrections also. Glad to see that you have been able to do some work on the renewals. A great many of these persons will not renew in Vancouver as they seem to be incurable centrists but many other of our old readers should be prospective members. After all these persons have received our paper longest and we have spoken to them continually as political problems developed. We are of the opinion that the renewals should be cleared up first as they possibly include some good contacts for the party. We have laid out a lot of plans for future activity and the Vancouver comrades will have lots to put their teeth into.

Warmest regards

Ross Dowson

October 26 1946

Letter to Vancouver branch on Campaign

Dear Comrades;

By this time you have already received the second letter on our Financial Campaign. Since that letter went out both the Alberta and Montreal comrades have rushed in ~~their~~ acceptance of their quotas and the campaign is well under way.

In the second circular letter we announced the revision of the Prince Rupert and Vancouver quotas. A revision to the extent of \$150 is quite serious and off hand we do not know just how it will be made up but this letter is not addressed to the Vancouver comrades in the form of a reproach nor reprimand. On the contrary we know that you comrades will do all in your power to raise as much and even more than the original quota if at all possible.

What we would like to discuss here are the possibilities of the campaign in Vancouver and make a few remarks on ~~the~~ what appears to have motivated the branches request for a lowered quota. It appears that the main reason for the revision of the quota is the substantial indebtedness of the branch to the National Office. It is of course vitally important that all branches take their obligations to the movement with the greatest seriousness and that every attempt be made to live up to them.

However a movement such as ours cannot permit the weight of past debts to drag it down or blur or curtail its energies and perspectives. Few branches or persons in our party are ever in such a financial condition that if they neglect or fail to meet their obligations through unforeseen difficulties they can make up for them at some later date. The campaign must be discussed in the light of possibilities that present themselves to us now. We are not a bunch of myopic bookkeepers who determine the possibilities of a business on its outstanding debts ~~and~~ and not on the possibilities of the market and the abilities of its staff to service the market.

The Vancouver branch has no campaign experience which enables it to draw a balance sheet. The previous campaigns were failures because our best comrades were immersed in other activities and many others were confused as to perspective. Certainly the debt is no indicator as it was a product of this past situation. We now exist as an independent party with fewer numbers but heads taller. Our staff is more experienced and cohesive, more capable of concentrated effort and the market is better than ever before. We are no longer selling substitutes but the real thing. If the comrades want a true indicator of Vancouver as it now stands look at the paper distributions that we are now conducting, the sub rallies and so forth.

The branch is now composed of a dozen or so reliable comrades. Godd. How much can the group raise within itself? In Toronto we averaged a \$20 dollar pledge per comrade. We had pledges ranging from \$50 to \$10. Perhaps Vancouver has more than her fair share of comrades who are in financial difficulties but no doubt we can average a ~~EX~~ \$10 pledge per comrade. After all this only means about \$1.25 a week extra for the next few weeks. Well we should have about \$100 there...probably much more. We understand that you are conducting a turkey raffle and that Kirk sold one book on a sub rally. We do not know how

elaborately this has been planned but books could be given to a great many of our sympathizers and personal friends for them to sell. A substantial sum of money will be raised by this means. It seems that Toronto is going to take a leaf out of your book and follow suit with a raffle of their own.

On top of this Vancouver has probably many persons it can approach for lump donations and pledges. To mention but a few; Gordon Campbell, Lamont, Eve Smith, Van, Mrs Burgoyne, Stan Stanton, Ridgeway of White Rock etc. These persons could be approached by certain comrades to whom they are not hostile. Lamont mailed in a sizeable contribution in the last campaign. Some of them will be pleased to give us a hand, others will give begrudgingly, and some will possibly refuse but quite a sum of money can be raised this way. Toronto expects to raise three to four hundred dollars from persons who are no better or no worse than Van's and Eve Smith's. Some of the closest persons could be asked for a pledge of a substantial amount which can be collected on once a week. Possibly a hundred dollars could be raised from these outside sources.

We think that this is a realistic approach to the problem of raising funds for the party and Labor Challenge. Possibly the comrades can think of some other ideas. But we must not permit the huge debt ~~EM~~ that accumulated from the past to interfere with the future development of the branch. We must look at ourselves as we now are and what we are in the process of becoming. We are confident that the revised quota will be left far behind and that you may possibly surpass the original one.

For every success in your campaign drive

Comradely yours

R. Dowson

October 28 1946

Dear Reg;

We received your letter on the B.C. Election Committee a few days ago. We must apologize for the delay in replying as I know that the date of its sessions is very near but ~~XXX~~ it was unavoidable. We have been unable to arrange a P.C. meeting to discuss the document. Dick worked all Friday night and Saturday morning and Tom switched onto night shift on Friday. However just a few hours ago Murray, Tom, and I got together and discussed the matter.

First; the idea that we should say our piece at such a committee is a fairly good one. The American comrades have been doing this quite extensively in the past few months. Of course they are participating in elections and since their representatives are their candidates it is excellent propaganda. In our case we cannot gain as much from such committees, ~~XXXXXX~~ the committees themselves are not going to receive much interest as there is no election situation developing. We are not running in any election and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ furthermore we are a completely unknown movement. However we are still of the opinion that there would be some propaganda value in appearing before the committee if the comrades can spare the time.

In so far as the document itself is concerned. We have made no attempt to analyse it point by point but I will attempt to sum up the various remarks of the comrades present and their general opinion.

It tends to be too vague where it should be concrete and too concrete where it should be vague. In our opinion the prime purpose of our ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXX~~ appearance and any statement we would submit should be to expose the fraudulence of parliamentarism and bourgeois democracy. This document has little to say on this point which is point (b) in the document. Indeed it treats the matter generally as one of the need to clear the air of "archaic and outmoded" methods and lacks ~~XXX~~ class concepts and fails to raise class ~~XXXXXXXX~~ understanding of the problem. This should in our opinion be the bulk and the main purpose of the document, ..., to expose the age, financial and property restrictions, the lack of democracy, the fact that a candidate and party with a minority of votes can get into power, and so forth. Our whole approach should be not that the present system is archaic or outmoded but that it is downright reactionary and non democratic. that ~~XX~~ through the present set up the boss parties attempt to stay in power and what is needed is not "alterations and amendments" but fundamental changes.

Your presentation of the Soviet structure is quite ingenious however I do not see that it has been or even possibly could be presented to the masses of the workers at this stage of their development as an alteration or amendment to the Election Act that is necessary for their well being. Five of the seven pages deal with alterations and amendments. It is here that we are the most definite and in our opinion this is where we should be least so. Some of the details are open to ~~extensive~~ debate, for instance the section on representation. (Candidates securing the highest votes being declared elected) also the required 100 signatures, etc.

We are of the opinion that the positive aspects of our position should be the demand that the voting age be lowered to 18 years, that all any property or financial restrictions be removed and that the franchise be absolutely free and unrestricted. Possibly there are other demands of a like character that could be raised. These demands are more capable of understanding ~~and~~ inspiring support and galvanizing action. None of these points have been gained as yet. There is no point in being ten steps ahead of developments in our agitation when the first step has not been won.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

We are of the opinion that this document in its present form should not be presented to the Committee. However if the comrades are able we are of the opinion that we should attend its sessions and present our position as suggested above.

Will ~~you~~ drop you a line as soon as we clear up this issue of the paper.

comradely yours

Ross Dowson

November 5 1946 (Ed note: Stan Stanton, p.1; Paddy Stanton, p.2)

Dear Reg; (Bullock)

Everyone is tremendously impressed with all the recent developments there. The branch is doing a marvelous job.

We received the copy of your leaflet for the Nov. 6th meeting. Unfortunately the paper will not get out to the coast until sometime around the 8th or 9th. Nonetheless we have put your ad in with ours. We are of the opinion that this is of great organizational value. It is unfortunate that the printer could not get the paper off before the week-end so that it would have reached the coast in time for the meeting. Would you yourself or some other comrade take detailed notes of the meeting and prepare a report of the next issue of the paper. I have not discussed this with Murray yet but am of the opinion that we should make the detailed report of your meeting and not ours this time. I think it should be along the line of the report of our first public meeting here. You might show the comrade detailed for the job this article. Could be about 5 pages triple spaced.

The first meeting you held seems to have been quite successful. An attendance of 21 persons is not bad at all. We did much worse at several forums we held last year. Its a trifle demoralizing for the speaker but it is good practice for us and also good education for our own comrades. After all we are unknown to the Canadian workers and it will take us a while to build up a stable audience. I understand that 8 or 9 of the audience were non-members and this is very good. These paper distributions and the very good sub work you are doing will soon pay off at your meetings. I am sure that the November 6th meeting will be even more successful.

We are quite excited about the recent developments with Stanton Borland and company. If these people come over to us it will be quite a feather in our cap. If we can provoke a split even if only a small one it will have national and possibly international repercussions. Borland sent in a letter to L.C. (Labor Challenge) challenging our position of support to the CCF at the CCL Convention. We are going to publish it in the next issue with an explanation of our position. From your information these fellows are not going to be able to turn back to the party but are going to be driven out and our way. We are in 100% agreement with the terms that you (laid) down to them. I gather from your letter that they are all serious elements. We certainly must not let them use this baloney about the Old Mans advice to keep to ourselves for a while if we do not find a place in the RWP. I do not know how impregnated they are with Stalinism but from the topic of their forum, the fact that Stanton reads all our literature and is a subscriber to the Militant and F.I plus the copy of Dewey Commission in Borland's pocket seems to add up to the fact that they are extremely close to us. I understand that Stanton has had some kind of relationship with Lamont and possibly Van, etc. Everything possible must be done to make them take a hard and sharp position particularly in their relationship with ourselves and our party. There can be no half way house between the LPP and the RWP. It would be tragic if they formed some kind of amorphous left wing grouping with Lamont etc and possibly the Shachtmanites. We must stick to our terms but not let any former animosities interfere with this important development. Are they in the Labor League of Youth and the party? Stanton seems to be

familiar enough with our position that I am of the opinion that they should be urged to stay in as long as they on and carry a real fight against LPP policy. They will not last long; I think there is little danger of them becoming lost and they may be able to develop quite a turmoil and possibly a sizeable spit. If anything I am inclined to believe that such a fight would only force them closer to us. We are anxious to hear how the committee makes out.

I will take up your suggestion re the financial drive. Glad to see you are making such splendid progress with your raffle. Byron Johnson has informed us that he received a raffle book and seems to think that we sent it out to him. Are you comrades sending books out only to B.C. persons or are you covering any other part of our subscribers. We're arranging for a raffle here and if you are only covering B.C then we will send a few books to persons in Montreal etc. Would you let us know.

Paddy was telling us about your work with Visual Education material. I understand that the American comrades had some such project as you outline on the Labor Theory of Value etc. I do not believe that they have yet done anything with it and I know that at the moment they are hard pressed for funds. I think it would be a good idea if you got in touch with Wm. F. Warde in New York, give him some of your ideas and with their help we might be able to go ahead with them. How are the reels that you have on hand? Possibly they could use them to great advantage. If we had the dough and the forces we certainly would do some work along these lines. I myself have seen some American documentaries that would be top rate if we put in our own commentaries. I am sure Comrade Warde who is the educational director of the SWP would be interested. If the ones you have already have on hand are very good we might be able to use them ourselves after stripping off CCF titles etc. or perhaps it would be too dangerous to use them in Canada.

You might tell Bill Whitney that we have just received the recordings of Trotsky's speech which we reproduced in the Mid-October issue. He might want to use it sometime for a mass meeting. We have not made any definite arrangements to use it for a while as we thought we would save it for a Trotsky Memorial meeting (August). But if you comrades have any ideas when it might be used for a public meeting let us know and we will ship the records(2) out to you. Did he receive the material that we sent him a while ago?

There were several other matters that I intended to take up but I have quite a bit of detail to handle in the bringing in of this film which looks like it might not possibly get in. I will drop you another letter after our meeting is by the boards. How are you making out in the headquarters hunt? We are looking for bigger quarters but so far without the slightest success.

Comradely yours,

Ross

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS' PARTY

(4th International)

PUBLIC MEETING

SUBJECT

**"THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION [1917]
and WORLD WAR III."**

Speakers from Revolutionary Workers Party
(Vancouver Branch)

Fraternal Speaker from The Socialist Workers Party
(U.S. Section)

HASTINGS AUDITORIUM

822 East Hastings Street

WED., NOV. 6—8 P.M.

FULL QUESTION PERIOD



November 8 1946

Dear Reg; (Bullock)

We have just held a P.C. meeting. At this meeting we took up some of the questions raised in your correspondence and taken up in my replies to the Vancouver branch. I am (sending) you this note right away as the comrades are in disagreement with some opinions I expressed in the November 5th letter re—the Stanton and Coy. developments.

The P.C. is in one hundred per cent agreement with Lloyd's demands on Stanton* for a public statement and a statement for Labor Challenge. You will recall however that I suggested in my letter that it might be a good idea to urge them to stay in the LPP and wage a principled fight, try to provoke a sizeable split. Tom supplied us with further information. The P.C. is of the opinion that we should not follow this line but should have them break immediately from the LPP. We gather that these comrades have a tendency to play around between the LPP and ourselves and that the LPP has a strong influence on them.

I have not yet drawn up the P.C. minutes so would you let the committee handling this case know the opinion of the P.C. as soon as possible. How are you progressing with Stanton and company? Inform us of any important developments.

Warmest regards

Ross

(*Stan Stanton –ed.)

November 14 1946

Dear Ellaline;

Enclosed please find a receipt ~~xxx~~ for the payment sent in on the monthly quota, a short list of recently expired subs, and the accounting that you asked for of the U.S. Internal bulletins sent to Vancouver the past while.

First opportunity that you have would you please check into a sub that was obtained about 1½ months ago from a J.E. Daly of McArthur Crescent. North Vancouver. It was sent in with no street address on it. A one year sub. If someone can get the number from the phone book or ~~xxxxxx~~ from the city directory ~~xxxxxx~~ they should let him know why the delay. We will advance his sub to cover the year.

Glad to see that the raffle appears to be coming along well. Byron Johnson informed us that you sent him ~~bookies~~ seal. It might be a good idea to go through the mailing list and send some to other persons out of town who could be relied on. Toronto has followed the Vancouver raffle idea with one of its own. We have sent a few to persons who appear to be reliable in other parts of Canada ~~xxx~~ but have left all of B.C. for you folks. We hope to raise ~~about~~ at least \$100.00 on ~~xxxx~~ on the Toronto raffle. We will have to for I do not know how else the gap between the amount pledged nationally and the objective can be reached.

Could you tell me if the branch appointed someone to look after the financial campaign? As you must have noticed I am having a hard time getting copy for the column in the paper. If the branch has appointed someone in particular for the job would you have him send us a letter on progress. At any rate would you take up the matter of the comrades starting a regular flow into the office from their pledges. We have nothing to report on the Vancouver campaign, as you know raffles are illegal and we can say nothing about them and there have been as yet no returns at all on the pledged amount. Time is getting short and we should have almost half the money in by now.

I am sending you another 500 copies of the mid November issue which will be in the mails on Monday night. You have certainly been doing some marvelous distributions. How did the Tim Buck distribution go? We should handle these meetings well prepared. ~~We~~ do not cover Stalinist meetings unless we have at least 5 comrades available. The last couple that Toronto ~~did~~ almost ended in a battle. The Victory ~~xxx~~ theatre Tim Buck meeting which was reported in the Challenge would certainly ended in a battle royal except for the fact that we were out in good number. Have you been able to cover any CCF rallies? They have been very quiet down this way for a long time now. We have been picking up a few subs at some of the factories that we have been covering regularly.

Toronto newsstand sales have been increasing in the last ~~XXXXX~~ few months but unfortunately many of the stands that were carrying it and making no sales refused to take it. Toronto has been putting Fourth Internationals on the stands..one three of the best ones which manage to dispose of 6 to 10 copies an issue. It might be a good idea to see how Kirk can make out on one or two of the best Vancouver stands. New York will sell them to you for 21cents so that you will have to sell it at 30 cents on the stand. The dealer wants it at 21 cents so the branch would have to absorb returns but Toronto has found that it can dispose of returns at public meetings.

As for the thousand copies Vancouver received of the mid october issue and the branch request for half rate. This is quite OK. You will no doubt be quite suprised to know that we do not keep accurate records of branch standings re bulletins, monthly pledges, bundle accounts etc. We keep an accurate accounting of all payments received., of all funds sent into the national office but when you asked for information as to how you stand re internal bundles it took me some time to work it out. ~~There is but the opinion~~ National office to keep account of all the debts outstanding in the party. We would have a hard time and anyway we cannot operate on debts. The possibility of branches to make good outstanding amounts is very slim as the party is composed of workers who have ~~XXX~~ no reserves. It has been my experience in the party that debts are lost money and only on rare occasions can they be collected. That is why ~~your opinion~~ it is necessary for all branches and comrades to pay up from day to day. The party has no reserve that would permit it to operate on debts and the branches have a hard enough time meeting present commitments. Is it possible to forward some money on the bundle orders ?

I hope your report on the meeting has left Vancouver by air by the time I am writing this letter. We want to report it in the coming issue of Labor Challenge. If it has already left we will might still be able to publish it in this issue . I gather from your last letter and a note from Reg that it was quite successful. These meeting no doubt involve a lot of work especially for our speakers but they are an excellent ~~XX~~ experience for our party and the development of our comrades. I gather that there were some new faces at the Russian Revolution meeting

I am glad that you raised the question of Britannia Beach and ~~Lines~~ Landing in your last note. ~~I have been wondering if it is necessary to carry on such close correspondence with Bill White from the National office as I gather that he comes in quite regularly and appears to be considered a member of the Vancouver branch.~~ About 4 months or so ago the N.C. decided that it was time that we tightened our connections with various persons who were in touch with the national office from various points accross Canada. We decided to approach many of these people to become members at large of the Canadian section of the Fourth International. We had in all cases uite lengthy connections with the people in person and were quite convinced of their political ~~XXX~~ solidarity with our party. They were all readers of our press, sub-getters, distributors of our literature etc and would have been in a party branch if such had existed in their vicinity. Bill of course had already been in the P.R. branch so all it amounted to was keeping in touch with him and giving what aid we could in the hope that ~~XX~~ he would be able

build a branch around him^{self} and do whatever he could under the circumstances. We have been in close touch with Bill up until quite recently and have been attempting to look after all his needs with regards to literature, internal bulletins etc. This connection seems to have loosened a little in the last month or so and I think it is accounted for by the fact that he seems to be in much closer contact with you than ever before. It is of course preferable that he work through the Vancouver branch if he is able..if he can get into town etc and that all his connection with the party be handled by yourselves. His present category in the party is that of a member at large but if he can be a member of the Vancouver branch that is fine. Byron Johnson is also a member at large and I am of the opinion that he should remain as such. He can no more be considered a member of the ~~Vancouver~~ branch than a person living in Kinston could be considered a Toronto member. He can and I understand does come over to Vancouver occasionally but this would not permit us in my opinion to consider him a member of the Vancouver branch as he cannot attend regular party meetings and participate in decisions of the branch ~~where~~ ~~can~~. Of course when he comes into town he should attend party meetings and have a voice in discussions and the comrades should attempt to give him advice and aid in his work.

I think we must approach the matter from this angle...can the person in question be a member of a party branch. Can he attend branch meetings and participate in the activities and decisions of the branch. If he cannot ~~XXXXXX~~ he must be considered a member at large. In some cases the member at large can be in fairly close contact with a branch from time to time and they should of course give him all the aid they can. If a person is a member at large it seems to me that the National Office directly responsible for keeping incontact with him but of course not at the exclusion in any sense of any branch that he may be able to consult and work with ~~from time to time~~.

I gather from one of your sentences that there may be some doubt as to whether B.J. should receive internal bulletins. We consider him a member of the party. We have known him for sometime and have found him through correspondence to be 100% in agreement with us and willing to abide to party discipline. He is ~~one of~~ the most active and hardest workers for the 4th in Canada. I gathered from coresspondence with you and him also that what differences there were have been strightened out long ago. He has nothing politically in common with Lamont. From all discussion we have had with him and they have been extensive and detailed he is one hundred per cent. I was under the impresssion that we had strightened this matter out. At any rate henceforth we will and have always intended to take in ~~XXXX~~ members at large only after consultation with all persons whom we ~~might~~ think know the persons in question.

I have just mailed out some internal bulletins that have arrived. Unfortunately there were insufficient to mail Vancouver 8 copies of each one but from now on we will try to meet your order. We have not been gwttting enough in as the comrades have not been paying for them. On this basis all we could do was sand out sufficient to see that those comrades interested should know what is going on. We have sent the odd one to B.J. and White but have concentrated on the branches where they would have a wider distribution.

Comradely yours
R. Dawson

This letter seems to have taken up a whole host of problems. What has happened to our division of labor. I see that Kirk has taken over literature. I do not know whether this discussion that we ~~XX~~ are having on B.J. and White is a personal one or one that has been raised by the branch. At any rate will you let Reg who I understand is secretary see the part on this question.

~~XXXX~~ warmest regards

Ross Dowson

November 20 1946

Dear Reg;

I have glanced through some of your past correspondence and branch minutes and have found ~~some~~ several items that you raised have been left unanswered by us.

Your report of the discussion with the Stalinist boiler makers faction leader (Stewart) is very interesting. I cannot visualize them approaching you whom they know are up to your neck in the 4th, as a possible contact for the LPP or even a person whom they might worm out some information of some kind. The fact that he invites you to his home and is extremely friendly only makes me think that he is a possible contact for the EWP. I think it would be a good idea if you and Ruth paid him a friendly ~~call~~ call. I see that you were talking with Dan about the suggested debate on the Great Conspiracy. I am inclined to agree with what you report of Dan's remarks on the question. The debate would be of a rather academic character. There is no doubt-the subject is extremely important..as it would involve our position on the Soviet Union and clear our name of the slanders of ~~Stalinism~~ Stalinism. I am confident that the comrades could do a good job. But still it is not so obviously and directly related to current problems in the minds of the union membership and it would be extremely difficult to make it appear so. We should by all means try to involve the Stalinists in debate but on some basic aspect of our program. The sliding scale, the answer to inflation. The Stalinists are strongly opposed to this demand. Disarmament and the fight for Peace. The Stalinists have been carrying on quite a campaign for disarmament..ban the bomb week and now "olotov at UNO. These are only two suggestions. You can no doubt devise even better ones as in the day to day fight in the union the Stalinists must come out with some positions which involve some basic problems confronting the local membership and Canadian labor as a whole. The question of Political Action itself would seem to me to be the most obvious one to have the PAC arrange a debate on. Here our differences with the Stalinists are fundamental and can be very easily and dramatically explained...for independent working class action, support of workers candidates against the Stalinist progressive peoples policy, Truman King. etc. They still intimate support of King whose only fault is that he is aligning Canada with the anti-Soviet bloc. It would be quite difficult to arrange ~~the~~ the debate on the Great Conspiracy but the PAC would have a tough time refusing one on Political Action.

Sorry to hear about the difficulties that Dan became involved in but ~~pleased~~ pleased to see that you made out alright with the meeting. I gather that we are developing some pretty effective speakers from the collection literature sales etc. Have you had a chance to read Cannons speech on the Russian "evolution

that appeared in the Militant with our comrades drawing. I think that you will find it to contain some good pointers as I did when I compared it with the one I delivered. I find that there is a tendency for less experienced speakers like ourselves to be too historical and descriptive and not sufficiently interpretative and inspirational. It is a very good idea to have the branch discuss the speeches of the various comrades or if not the branch which is no doubt short of time as it is possibly the Executive of the branch.

We received Elalines' report. I can see that she put some work on it ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ It is about 5 days too late. and I do not think we will be able to use it in the next issue as we will be in December then. Did you have an opportunity to discuss with her as to how to write it. In my opinion the report by Joe Rose of the Toronto meeting in the mid October issue is a very good guide. What is wanted to make an article lively is lots of quotations which sum up the main ideas of the speaker. ~~XXXXXX~~ Ellaline condensed the ideas and the thing becomes more or less dead. It is a good start but I think it would be a good idea if you took up the matter with her and read through ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ reporting that has appeared in the Militant to get ideas and get the feel of such articles. Murray will probably be writing her on this. I am enclosing a copy of our letter head which Lil will probably want to write her ~~her~~ credential on so that she can cover the Labor Council.

Would you send in the title and speakers of the next meeting you are arranging so that we can put the ad in this coming issue of L.C. I understand that the meeting is arranged for the night of Dec 21st.

I see that the raffle is coming along fine. How are the pledges coming? Is there a campaign manager? If there is would you give him a prod as we have received no money on the pledge as yet ~~which has probably collecting~~ and the campaign column in the paper does not look so hot with a gap for Vancouver. I would like some information ~~from this comrade~~ which could be used in the column ~~from~~ from this comrade also.

This brings me to the matter of division of labor in the group. I am in correspondence with two persons.. Ellaline and yourself although I see that you have an Educational director a new literature agent and so forth. ~~I do not think that~~ ^{do not} we want to artificially break up the correspondence, ~~as~~ a lot of the work of the various comrades is included in the minutes which ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ we have been receiving regularly but through the various comrades not handling their own departments I am afraid we miss important items and the P.C. is liable to get false impressions of the branch's work.

For instance in her last letter Ellaline raised a few questions with regards to the relationship of B.C. members-at-large to the Vancouver branch. In a reply I dealt with some aspects of the problem but if this question has been raised before the branch perhaps it should be handled more fully...and of course it should go to the branch secretary. I do not mean by this that we must cut off such correspondence as Ellaline's even if the enquiries were made for her own satisfaction only but it would be well if

We kept our work departamentalized for the sake of clarity.

We are sorry that you are in disagreement with the P.C.'s remarks on the brief that you ~~prepared~~ prepared to put before the Electoral Commission. However I personally do not feel that our disagreement involved ~~any~~ anything of a principled character and as you say since it is passed we need not take time out to debate it if other work is interfering. I was going to suggest the internal bulletin which by the way I am getting to work on this week-end but as yet I cannot see that there is a great deal to learn from it. The idea to hold a discussion on it in the branch however is an excellent one. We should normally try to throw the internal bulletin open for such questions. I am still of the opinion that it would be profitable for our movement to take up the matter of the disagreements over the IWA strike and if some one there could take time out and write up the opposition to the P.C. statement I think it should be published in the bulletin.

Re the Shachtman meeting that appears to be in the offing. I do not feel that we need take any official stand on whether comrades should attend or not. We should certainly not attend in force and bolster up his meeting but if any comrade desires to go I think nothing should be done to prevent his attendance or even discourage it. I suppose the copy of the internal bulletin put out by the SWP on the W.P. has been widely circulated. If there is much interest in the branch it might be well to have a discussion on this bulletin either before or after Shachtman's meeting. I gather that Shachtman has found a little support in Vancouver. I do not know how extensive it is or to what extent it is influencing our comrades (particularly Borland and Stanton) If many of our comrades want to attend and there seems to be any danger of this shyster leaving any mark in Vancouver some of our more responsible comrades should attend and blast him with the material that is available.

This Borland ~~and~~ Stanton and company split is a terrific development and all the comrades are to be commended on its excellent handling. Go ahead full steam with the release to the bourgeois press. The Vancouver executive should work it over with the aid of these comrades and let it go to the four winds. In the publicity that we received on the founding of the party we found that the press considers the Fourth International to be of big news value and also the fact that we are communists as opposed to the reformism and betrayals of the Stalinists. Trotsky is also big news. Fight against war also. I think it should be of a popular character, not too historical but dealing with the class collaborationist character of the LPP and the revolutionary character of the RWP. Send the release to every news service and paper in Vancouver. I was going to say that it should be short and concise but if you can get the ear of the fellow who wrote up the CCF split it might be well to make it fairly extensive....as he seems to be willing to give that stuff good coverage and quotes.

on the split

~~In so far~~ Re the article for Labor Challenge. I have just been speaking to Murray who is at hand and we are both of the opinion that the P.C. should ~~have~~ have a free hand to look after this release. Would you send in all the material as it comes off with all comments and suggestion of the Vancouver comrades.

We will really play this split up as it is exceedingly important. Will possibly have international repercussions. There have been lots of expulsions and many have dropped out of the Stalinist parties but this is the first split even if it only involves 4 persons that has taken place for a long long while... The article for L.C. will of course have to be of a totally different character to the news release for the bourgeois press. It will have to be more analytical and more rounded. Borland and coy will need a hand with this. They have taken a very responsible attitude so far and I am sure they will understand the need for the P.C. to have a free hand with this item.

You might be able to get some other important material from them for a future issue of the paper. They appear to have been quite active in the LPP and could no doubt give some valuable information as to its internal character, its size, how it operates, the bureaucratic control of the leadership, the political level of the membership and so forth.

Keep us posted on this split

comradely yours

Ross Dowson

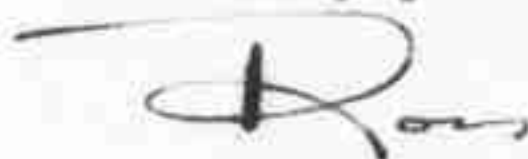
November 22 1946

Dear Reg;

I have received your note dated November 18th re Tom Bradley. The P.C. is by no means through with this question and will be discussing it at its next meeting which will take place probably on November 25th. Any further information or remarks ~~that you~~ would be considered a welcome contribution to the discussion of this important problem.

Warmest regards

comradely yours

A stylized handwritten signature, likely 'Ross', written in dark ink.

Ross Dowson

December 5 1946

Dear Reg;

Last Monday night the P.C. met and discussed the case of Comrade Bradley and your submission on the question of his return to Vancouver. You will have to pardon the long delay.

We were pleased to receive your statement as it threw some new and very valuable light on the situation. Up until then we had absolutely no inkling that Tom's conduct in Vancouver was anything other than above reproach and were quite surprised to see that your description of Tom's meeting with the P.C. was as if you were there in attendance. I can assure you that the P.C. did not okay Tom's return to Vancouver to ease itself of a difficult and complex problem. We had no idea that his actions here were but a duplication of his conduct in B.C.

All during his stay here (about 40 days) he was morose and sullen. He was drinking quite heavily and appeared to be extremely nervous. Having little previous experience with Tom we thought that he was just having difficulty adjusting himself to his new circumstances. This in fact was his own contention. While a few of us may have had doubts as to this being the whole story no one could doubt that he was physically and mentally ill. The question that confronted us was; what is the cause and what can we do to correct it.

The P.C. felt that under the pressure of circumstances that it was forced to submit to his desire to return to Vancouver. This permission was given only on the basis that it would be a solution to Tom's mental and physical illness, and no other. However since his previous conduct in Vancouver ~~was~~ closely paralleled his conduct in Toronto we feel compelled to draw to the attention of some responsible comrades in Vancouver some of the details of what took place here. His conduct in Toronto which was disgraceful for a responsible and experienced member of the party and which was excused only on the above basis must not be permitted repetition in Vancouver. No doubt Tom will attempt to justify his return to Vancouver. Because of your added information I think it probable that he may attempt to do so at the expense of the Toronto branch and the P.C. of the party. For your information I will give a short resume of our experiences here.

Tom's relationship with the office and the party here in Toronto were not very close. During his whole stay here he came down to the headquarters only on a few occasions. One could not help being struck by the fact that he appeared to value his relationship with the infamous bureaucrat Silby Barrett higher than his relationship with our movement. At no time did we have any serious discussions with him ~~XXXXXX~~ on any problems of the party except at formally called meetings of the P.C. Etc. The first assignment that Tom was given was a report on the CCL Convention. The results were ~~very~~ unsatisfactory and had to be almost entirely rewritten by the Editor. My general impression was that he did not take this work very seriously however not everyone can write, or wants to learn how to write. One thing we did expect of Tom was some excellent platform work as we understood that he was an experienced speaker.

Tom was appointed by the branch to be one of three speakers at the first meeting announcing the formation of the party here in Toronto. Two separate gatherings were held of all the persons involved to discuss all the details. The meeting was broken up into three speeches and the various aspects of their speeches were gone into. Tom turned up at the meeting totally unprepared, rambled all over the place and merely repeated hackneyed political phrases and personal reminiscences. He appeared extremely nervous and nothing was said about his performance although every comrade was ~~very~~ disappointed in him. He attended a few party meetings (membership) and then unfortunately missed some as he had to work nights.

[illegible]

Just prior to this Tom had been give the job as chariman for our November 7th meeting. Since our film failed to arrive it was decided that he should give a 10 minute talk on our party, the party of October and the need to build it. . He appeared at the meeting just before it was scheduled to start and some comrades claim well under the influence of liquor. This is a debateable matter but at any rate he really muffed this meeting up. We haven't a comrade in our party who couldn't do a better job. He even missed parts of the agenda and in his talk rambled and mumbled all over the place.

A meeting of the P.C. was scheduled for November 10th. At this meeting we had intended to raise the matter of his actions ~~XXX~~. But the air was so tense that it was purposeless to raise the matter of past actions. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ The question of Stanton and the IPP comrades came up for discussion as one of the first items on the agenda. We were discussing your proposals and my correspondence. I had suggested that they be kept in the IPP to wage a fight. Tom opposed this as did another comrade but his reasons appear to be motivated by nothing other than hatred for Stanton. When asked for a characterization of Stanton who we were going to bring into the party he launched an abusive attack which summed up ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Stanton in a few words as a "bastard." When asked what he meant as we were searching for a political estimation, he blew up, grabbed his chair and went over to the other side of the room.

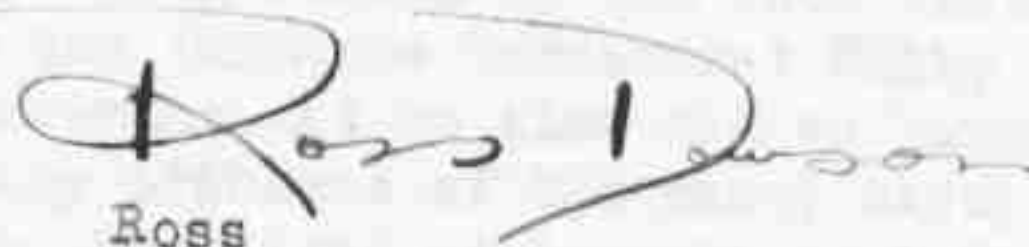
He then levelled charges against the National Secretary that he was carrying on relations with the IPPers and Stanton over the heads of the Vancouver branch. When this was proven to be absolutely false and the correspondence ~~of~~ the Natl Office with Stanton read out (incidentally this was all forwarded to Vancouver for their information) he said nothing. I think that you can appreciate that after such a situation it was not possible to sit down and sanely discuss his role and actions in the party. We however only intended to postpone the matter when-----

On Tuesday morning November 12 he informed Murray that he had quit his job and he would like the P.C. to meet and discuss his request to return to Vancouver that very night. The P.C. met that afternoon with the exception of Dick. Here he told us that he was unable to continue on in Toronto, that he was ill and that if he returned to Vancouver he would be alright. It was pointed out that one of the reasons he was supposed to have come here for was to withdraw from the scene of his personal problems which he now desired to return to. It was also pointed out that he came here to reinforce the center and that this was still a pressing task for the party. He was obviously ill, and also obviously beyond the state that he could be reasoned with. What was the alternative? As far as we knew he had done good work in Vancouver..perhaps he just could not adjust himself. If we did not give him approval what would be the result? Perhaps the party would lose a man who if valueless in his present state to the center could be a great help to Vancouver.

George Clarke never said anything that I can recall about your discussion with him about Tom. We were also unaware that his decision to come East was self determined. Nor were we aware of the situation in the branch due to his activities. I myself and I am sure some of the rest of the comrades had a sneaking suspicion that there was some connection between ~~XXX~~ Tom's leaving and the amazing burst of energy and the marvellous developments that have taken place in Vancouver in the past month and a half.

We can only find assurance in your statement that you believe that the "branch is strong enough to surmount any difficulties which may come up". We are writing this letter not through any desire to call Tom to ~~XXXX~~ task for his actions in Toronto but to let you know what happened here and to give you ~~XXXX~~ an inkling of our opinions. Tom returned to Vancouver on the strength of improvements. If the branch has any further experiences such as we have had here I am of the opinion that it should not hesitate to enforce strong disciplinary actions. His actions in the Toronto membership meeting can not be allowed to be duplicated. I think it advisable that Muriel and Lloyd see this letter and that you discuss the question amongst yourselves.

Warmest regards


Ross

On second thought show this letter to Lloyd and Muriel at your own discretion

Congratulations on the Stanton IPP affair... a job well done

December 6th 1946)

B B or
(Vancouver)

Dear Comrade White;

Ellaline forwarded the material that you sent her on the strike but it came to us just too late for the mid November issue so we sent it back to Reg to bring up to date for the December issue. Unfortunately it did not come back for the December issue. Reg has just sent us a line apologizing for his inability to do naything on it as he has been tied up pretty well with the day to day work of the branch and the recent IFP development which brought three new elements to our ranks. Although it is unfortunate that we were unable to do anything with it I think that we will have to admit that Reg's business was more pressing. I will write him to ask him to forward it with anything that may be new so we can use it for the next issue. I think you will agree that it is rather dangerous for us to do much on the article since we are so far removed from the scene and have no idea what has developed there except from the Tribune and the CCF News.

We are ageably suprised to hear of the excellent work that you are doing. I know what it must be difficult to operate when completely isolated as you are. When I told Paddy about the splendid work that you are doing. ...he said; What do you expect, all my contacts are first rate. I am sure that you will find Warren Creels aticles in L.C. and the Militant an excellent aid in your study classes. They are the best interpretation of Marxist economics applied to the present and pressing problems confronting the workers that I have seen. Both our Dutch and Belgium papers reproduce them. You could almost use them striaght from the paper with added Canadian material. I have attended economic classes before and the main fault that I found with them was that they were very dry and this was due principally to the fact that the lecturer did not apply Marxism to the current issues of prices, wages, profits etc but tednded to deal with the subject in too theoretical and dry a manner. You will find some good Canadian material in the Canada Year Book which is published by the government every year and sells at quite a reasonable price.

Through the trade union faction and the class we should be able to develop some good party material. I hope that you will find Labor Challenge and the Fourth International a big help. The F.I. sells a 6 month sub for one dollar and I think you will have little trouble once the boys get back on their feet in selling a six month sub. We have copies of Value Price and Profit on hand also Wage Labor and Capital and many other of the Marxist classics beside Pioneer publications which you might be able to dispose of. I am enclosing a few lists that you might pass around. I would particularly recommend the book Capital with an extensive introduction on Marxism Today by Leon Trotsky...it is one of the best essays that the old man ever wrote...Marxism and the American scene. Do not hesitate to call on us if you think that we can help you in any way.

You will have to pardon the shortness of this letter. I am sending it out as we are going to be tied up in a few days with our election campaign in Toronto. We are contesting the mayoralty. I have just sent oof in the mail the Toronto edition of December L.C. Next issue will carry our platform. The bourgeois press wi ll probably give us the silent treatment so we are going to make ourselves heard as best we can with the small forces at our disposal and our limited funds. We hope to

speaking on the radio finances permitting, we are going to increase substantially the press run of L.C. and also turn out 10,000 leaflets. We will try to speak at as many public meetings as possible so you can see that all in all we are going to be tied up the next three weeks. the election is on January first. We expect to put ourselves on the map.

Thanks for the three subs and also for the money towards the campaign. ~~For~~ Malm and Mitchell will receive acknowledgement at the end of the campaign. How are we going to close the books out there. We still have \$160.00 unpledged. Toronto took an awful big bite when it pledged \$750 but I think that we can make it. Vancouver is coming through very slowly although I do not know just what is the cause. Well we have about 15 more days which I hope will see us over the top.

comradely yours

Ross Dowson